



Health & Fitness: Reflections on 20 Years at the Minnesota AIDS Project,
Climbing to Fitness with Vertical Endeavors

LAVENDER[®]

Since 1995

LAVENDER SPORTS ISSUE

Local Leagues & Recreation for the Rainbow Community

520

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
MINNESOTA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
APRIL 30-MAY 13, 2015

Available on the
App Store
x 15,195

DOWNLOAD
THIS ISSUE ON
NEWSSTAND



JOIN 73.9K OF
US ON TWITTER
@BIGGAYNEWS



TOP 5
MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR



NEXT LAVENDER'S
FIRST THURSDAY: 6/4/15
AT MARIN COURTYARD



7-Passenger,
2015 Mitsubishi
Outlander

2015
IIHS
TOP
SAFETY
PICK+

UP TO
31
MPG†

**AMONG AMERICA'S
SAFEST CROSSOVERS**

\$17,000
Starting under

5-Passenger,
2015 Mitsubishi
**Outlander
Sport**

2015
IIHS
TOP
SAFETY
PICK

UP TO
32
MPG†



**10-year
100,000-mile
POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY**

2015 Outlander Sport ES buy from \$16,999. Must finance or lease through MMCA credit. Includes all factory incentives and dealer discounts in lieu of 0% financing. Ask about even more savings available for Military or Mitsubishi VIP eligible customers as well as Mitsubishi, Saturn and Suzuki Owners. Offer ends 4/30/15.
†Based on 2015 EPA mileage ratings. Use for comparison only. Your mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle.

**WHITE BEAR MITSUBISHI
FOREVER
WARRANTY**



Free Lifetime Warranty!

Every* new vehicle purchase includes the White Bear Mitsubishi forever warranty!
Unlimited miles forever!

*Excludes leases and Evolution and Ralliart models.

**WHITE BEAR
MITSUBISHI**

3400 Highway 61, Just North of 694, White Bear Lake, MN
651.483.9106 WhiteBearMitsu.com



SCHEHERAZADE JEWELERS PRESENTS

THE GREAT ESTATE

BUY › TRADE › SELL

THREE DAYS ONLY
FRIDAY, MAY 1 & SATURDAY, MAY 2, 10AM - 8PM
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 11AM - 5PM

Especially selected for your viewing pleasure, see authentic signed creations by Henry Dunay, Cartier, Tiffany and more - all available at remarkable special pricing during this Event.

We invite you to bring in your too-precious-to-melt but no-longer-worn fine jewelry & watches. Our on-site experts will assist you in determining the best options for your treasures.



SCHEHERAZADE

GALLERIA › 69TH & FRANCE › EDINA
952.926.2455 › WWW.SJEWELERS.COM

All items shown are subject to prior sale.

CONTENTS

LAVENDER®

FEATURE: SPORTS & OUTDOORS

24 Playing for the Other Team: Catch-22

26 Metro GLBTA Sports

34 5 Reasons to Go for a Bike Date

SPECIAL: HEALTH & FITNESS

36 Vertical Endeavors: Climbing to Fitness

38 20 Years at the Minnesota AIDS Project

OUR LAVENDER

8 From the Editor

9 A Word in Edgewise

10 Lavender Lens

47 Lavender Lens

OUR SCENE

12 Arts: Spotlight

16 Arts: One Arm

18 Food & Dining: Revival

OUR HOMES

42 Ride Review

OUR RESOURCES

45 Classifieds

46 The Network

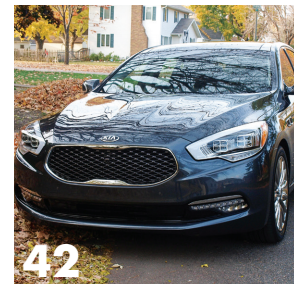
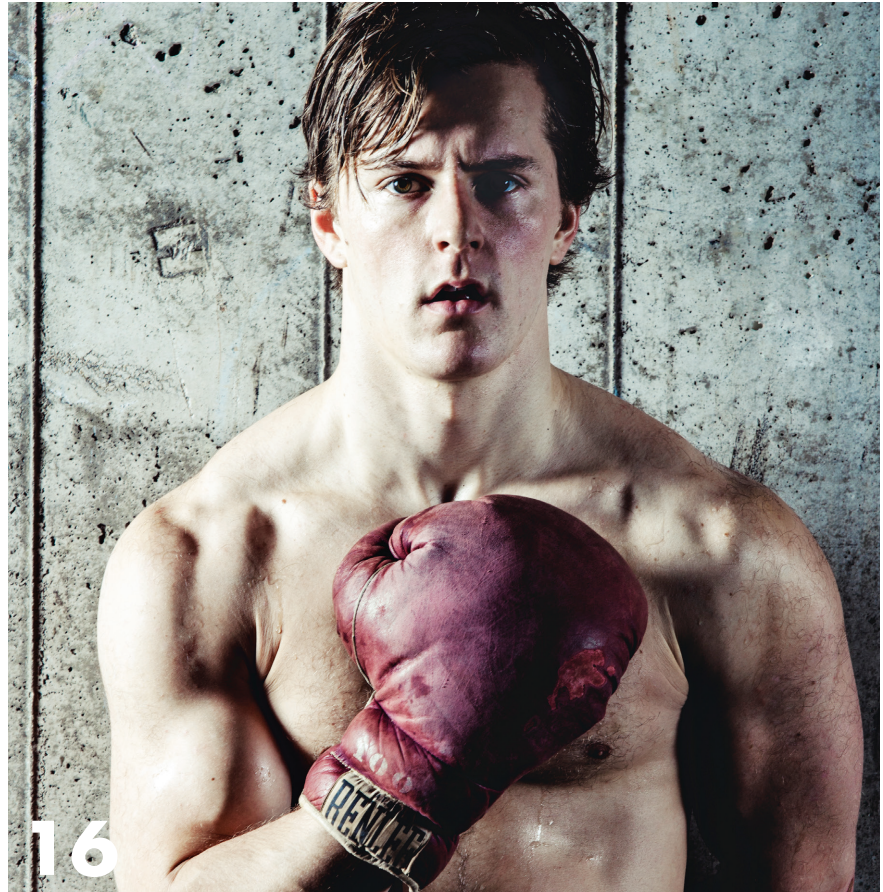
48 Community Connection

OUR VOICES

44 Dateland

44 Trolin

50 Through These Eyes

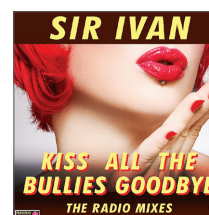


Page 16: Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp. Page 18: Photo by Joy Summers. Page 34: Photo courtesy of My City Bikes. Page 42: Photo by Randy Stern.

ONLINE



Online Magazine



Prizes



LavenderMagazine.com

ON THE COVER

Our Sports Issue shows off all different kinds of sports and recreation, both indoors and out. Climb your way to fitness at Vertical Endeavors! Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Available on www.LavenderMagazine.com: Our Online Magazine, read it on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or DROID. Prizes, register to win. Exclusive content only online, not in print.



Denise Nix

Position: Income Tax Specialist

ROR Tax Professionals Since: 2/10/2014

Interesting Fact: I always wanted to be a gay man because I should've been born a queen.

Passion: Learning

Vice: Karaoke

Color: Pink



4500 Park Glen Road
Suite 425

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

p 612-822-7177 f 612-822-2163

RORTax.com

"We wondered how we would be treated when shopping for wedding rings as a lesbian couple.

We visited three other jewelry stores before going to Wedding Day Diamonds...

Our sales person, Lindsay, listened and helped us find **the perfect rings.**"



-Dianne S. (Yelp review)



IT'S YOUR WEDDING DAY



\$50 OFF your wedding band purchase of \$350 or more!

Burnsville | Maplewood | Bloomington | Maple Grove | West End | Eden Prairie

Offer valid in-store and online. Not valid on previous purchases, trade-ins, Simon G, Verragio, loose diamonds, semi mounts, or fashion jewelry. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Limit one per couple. Use promo code: LVD100

HOW LONG
DO WE
LEAVE THE
FM ON?
all day.

100.7 FM + 104.5 FM

RADIO K
770AM 100.7 & 104.5 FM
Real College Radio

Attorneys Proudly Serving the LGBTQ Community and all Allies.

612-333-3343

- **Workers' Compensation**
(There is no charge for attorneys' fees if there is no recovery)
- **Auto Accidents/ Personal Injury**
(There is no charge for attorneys' fees if there is no recovery)
- **Immigration/ Fiancé Visas**
- Same-sex couples can now receive immigration benefits with the repeal of DOMA
- **Family Law**

RA ROBICHAUD & ALCANTARA P.A.

www.robichaudlaw.com
Mention this ad for a free consultation.

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION

Family Law/Divorce • Domestic Partnerships
Child Support • Business & Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense • Wills/Powers of Attorney



RANDALL S. JOHNSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
651-646-3755 • www.rsjlaw.com

*Providing affordable legal services to the LGBT community since 1992
Offices conveniently located at Highway 280 and University Avenue*

jewelry
home
chocolate

max's™

www.StyleByMax.com



amali
JEWELRY DESIGN

Trunk Show
May 1-2

Shops at
Excelsior & Grand
3826 Grand Way
St. Louis Park
952.922.8364

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and your home, so why not save money in the process? Call today for a free, no obligation look at auto and home discounts from American Family.



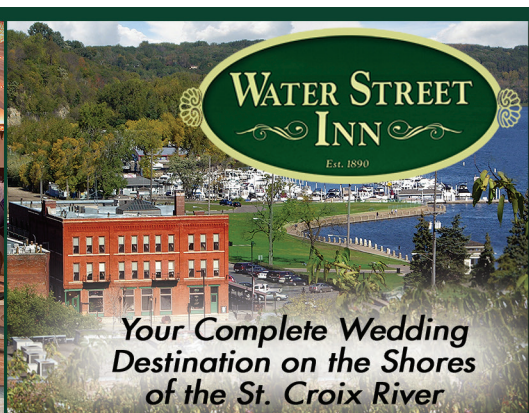
All your protection under one roof®



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008



Dawn Bartell Agency
4649 Bloomingtown Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554



WATERSTREETINN.US 651-439-6000 101 WATER STREET S, STILLWATER, MN

LAVENDER®

Volume 20, Issue 520 • April 30-May 13, 2015

Editorial

Managing Editor Andy Lien 612-436-4671
Assistant Managing Editor Shane Lueck 612-436-4692
Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4694
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Copy Editor Bridget Rocheford-Kearney
Contributors Kathleen Bradbury, Thomas Ehnert, Nell Gelhaus, Ed Huyck, Justin Jones, Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Shane Lueck, Brandon McCray, Jennifer Parelo, Randy Stern, Joy Summers, John Townsend, Bradley Traynor, Carla Waldemar

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
Account Executives Robert Felton 612-436-4697, Richard Kranz 612-436-4675, Tawnya Konobeck 612-436-4695
Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer
Sales & Advertising Traffic Coordinator Linda Raines 612-436-4694
Sales Lead Specialist Michelle Ulmer 612-436-4693
Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
National Sales Representative Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678
Graphic Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes
Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666
Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664
Distribution Manager/Administrative Assistant Molly Gosh 612-436-4660
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435; or e-mail editor@lavendermagazine.com.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

Lavender Media, Inc.

7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4685 **Fax**
612-436-4664 **Subscriptions**
612-436-4660 **Distribution**
612-436-4698 **Advertising**

LAVENDER
MAGAZINE.COM
LavenderMagazine.com

BIG GAY NEWS
FROM
BigGayNews.com



Entire contents copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.



BIG GAY NEWS .COM

Suffer Through BigGayNews*

***#1 Gay News Source on Twitter**

"Your newsreader mispronounces words, names, cities, etc."

"Some find this endearing, but I find it annoying."

"Terrible! Get him some elocution lessons!"

"The poorly pronounced narration makes it impossible to listen to."

"All you hear is the very poor quality of the English language newsreader."

Listen to Pierre Tardif's **"insufferable"** delivery of BigGayNews on iTunes' Podcasts.

Subscribe on iTunes!

Kudos to Linda Raines for compiling the top 5 daily stories!



Bankruptcy Law

Proudly serving our community for over 24 years



Stop:

– wage garnishment – bank levies – foreclosure – creditor phone calls

PRACTICE AREAS INCLUDE:

Wills • Powers of Attorney • GLBT Family Law

BECKY A. MOSHIER

— ATTORNEY AT LAW —

PROVIDING NEW BEGINNINGS SINCE 1991

2233 University Ave. W., Ste 420, St. Paul, MN 55114 (near Hwy. 94 & Hwy. 280)

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.



Call for a **FREE** consultation with an experienced bankruptcy attorney

651-645-1211

www.moshierbankruptcylaw.com

The Finest of Luxury



MARQUETTE PLACE
Luxury Apartments

Luxury Living

1314 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612.339.9600
marquetteplace.com

740 RIVER DRIVE

Urban Contemporary

740 Mississippi River Blvd S
St. Paul, MN 55116
651.698.8866
740riverdrive.com

ONE TEN GRANT

Apartments on the Greenway

Contemporary Lifestyle

110 West Grant Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612.342.0110
onetengrant.com

Marquette Place, One Ten Grant, and 740 River Drive offer our residents a wide array of amenities, including 24-Hour concierge services, chauffeured car service, business centers, fitness centers, indoor/outdoor swimming pools and even complimentary continental breakfast Monday-Friday!

Unfurnished and furnished, long and short term rentals available.

The Lavender Sports Page

The Twin Cities area is often cited as having the best of the best in our people. We're forward-thinking, we're cultured, we're active. This community tends to carry a lot of weight on those scales being that our readers prove to be both upwardly mobile as well as just plain mobile. Movers and shakers and goers. Athletes and active people are numerous, which is obvious in our local organized sports and recreation groups.

Toward the end of last year, we put out a call to the readership to let us know who our sports teams are, who's playing, what's being played, when, and how people can get involved. We compiled this issue and a whole section of our website to put all of the results of those surveys into central locations for you to find easily. Not surprisingly, much of what goes on tends to happen during the non-snowy months, so timing our Sports & Outdoors Issue for late April seems to hit a sweet spot in the sports schedule. There's much to look forward to all year 'round, both indoors and out. Levels of organization vary between casual meetup groups to pickup games to trying out to compete for different teams.

Once you've checked out what we have in these pages, we invite you to regularly visit our Lavender Sports Page at www.LavenderMagazine.com/sports. There, we've got a section of our website dedicated to scores, photos, stories, and news.

The Scoreboard has league-submitted scores for the various teams in our readership area (the Vixen football team is currently having a winning season as obvious on the website right now). You can find coverage of the recent games and tournaments in the Photos section, the photography is both taken by *Lavender's* photographers as well as submitted by the teams and organizations. The Stories section gathers articles from

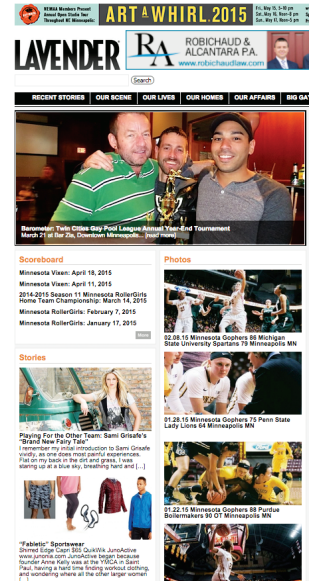
our own pages as well as those highlighting various teams and players, leagues and organizations, games and fundraisers. And then there's also the News section that includes both local and sports-related news from Big Gay News happening around the world.

If you have a team that you don't see represented in this issue or online, let us know. We'd love to keep up with your activities and show off what you do to the rest of the community and greater society. In her "Playing for the Other Team: Catch-22" piece (page 24) Nell Gelhaus talks about how sports have been a safe haven for the rainbow community, a place to hide at times, and a crucial one at that. By dedicating this space and attention to the members and allies of this community, we're assisting you in strutting your stuff and taking your talents and interests out into the spotlight where you belong.

See you in the stands.

With thanks,

Andy ■



Reaching your financial goals can start here

WELLS FARGO

When you're ready to build on your achievements, our trusted bankers are ready to support your personal and professional goals. Our bankers live and work in your community and know that good relationships make us all stronger. With our customized tools and services, we may help you build a legacy of wealth and success.

Together we'll go far



© 2014 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.
Member FDIC. (1203728_12666)

frameworthy
QUALITY CUSTOM FRAMING



COUNTRY VILLAGE CENTER
11309 HIGHWAY SEVEN
MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA
www.frameworthymn.com
9 5 2 ■ 9 3 8 ■ 0 8 5 6

Discretion assured when framing your personal art and photographs.
(Contact Mark for an appointment.)

Mention this ad for 60% off the frame on custom framing orders.

Driving Out or Welcoming In – We Make the Choice

We live in a country where homelessness is penalized, even criminalized. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, for example, is about to pass a law forbidding homeless persons to store possessions publicly.

Ft. Lauderdale police would be required to give a homeless person a 24-hour warning before confiscating his or her possessions. It's obvious that if you don't have a home today, you're not likely to have one tomorrow. Confiscated belongings then would be ransomed for "return" fees or destroyed. Having no place to store the reclaimed items, the cycle would repeat without any effort to find a solution for the core problem: housing for the homeless.

Other cities have other methods to drive away the unsightly homeless, such as seeding any open public surface with concrete spikes to prevent transients — or any other citizen — from alighting to rest. Diametrically opposed to the NIMBY philosophy is that of Auburn University's Rural Studio, that for the past two decades has been working to design affordable, sustainable dwellings.

It would profit urban planners to study the recently published *Rural Studio at Twenty: Designing and Building in Hale County, Alabama*.

In text and extensive illustrations, the five authors describe their techniques for designing and building these innovative dwellings, methods used to select recipients, and the crucial interactions between the designers and builders and the homes' residents.

While the project does not provide homes on a large scale, and the rural nature of Hale County offers cheaper land than urban Birmingham, Minneapolis, or Ft. Lauderdale, it is Rural Studio's concern for the well-being and dignity of the less fortunate that needs to be taken into account.

One cannot in an instant throw up free housing for everyone in need, not even in Hale County, but Auburn University's Rural Studio, its students, planners, and clients, offer a fresh lens through which to view our thinking about decent housing for all.

In his ballad, "Falling Leaves," country singer Grandpa Jones cautioned, "When you leave this earth for a better home someday / The only thing you'll take is what you gave away." Just as intelligent, planned giving benefits the giver and receiver, so confiscating a homeless man's possessions or sweeping out the poor for "aesthetic" reasons damages both the sweeper and the swept. ■







#GetBetterFaster

Recover from injury.

Restore function.

Realize your potential.

Whether you've recently been injured, have undergone surgery, or have been suffering with chronic pain for years, Orthology can help you get better, faster.

Our patent-pending, research-based methodology has been proven on over 500 professional athletes and Olympians. This collaborative approach to care sets Orthology apart—and can help you avoid the endless cycle of visits to specialists and clinics.

Schedule appointments at Orthology.com.



ORTHOLGY
physical wellness

Eden Prairie	West End	Maple Grove	Woodbury
(612) 470-1690	(612) 470-1691	(612) 470-1692	(612) 470-1693

Orthology accepts all major insurance plans.

OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



MARCH FIRST THURSDAY AT THE MELTING POT

MARCH 5, 2015



TRANSGENDER COMMISSION PRESENTS: "GENDER BLENDER" AT U OF M

MARCH 24, 2015



OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



QUEERS ON WHEELS WITH AVENUE'S GLBT HOST HOME PROGRAM AND THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTER MARCH 26, 2015



JUDY SHEPARD: "THE LEGACY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD" AND "THE LARAMIE PROJECT" AT SAINT PAUL COLLEGE MARCH 27, 2015



OUR SCENE

ARTS & CULTURE | SPOTLIGHT | BY JOHN TOWNSEND



Mr. Burns: a post-electric play. Photo by Kevin Berne

MR. BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

Through May 10

Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls.

(612) 377-2224

www.guthrietheater.org

The first act of this post-apocalyptic comedy occurs after a nuclear catastrophe has destroyed the grid we all rely on and seldom think of as ever going out of commission. It's like the ravaged world of *Mad Max* where guns and paranoia rule. No electricity. Technological advances are no longer existent. Clusters of survivors have only what's in their immediate vicinity to draw information from. What if a *Bible*, Shakespeare, Confucius, the *Koran*, or Ovid were not available as a fundamental text sources and all you had was an episode of *The Simpsons*?

Playwright Anne Washburn muses on this in *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play*, a Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis-American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Co-Production. A dynamic young cast captures the shock and awe of a lifetime of refugee status in Act One. With visceral immediacy they recount an episode about nuclear power plant tyrant, Mr. Burns. DVDs are no longer playable so memory is all they have to draw from. Seven years later, in Act Two, which plays like a sitcom, they theatricalize the episode from memory in a "society" where tribes are as vehement about drama competitions as scores of millions are today about sports.

75 years later in Act Three a stylized presentation of the episode is offered by a new generation (same actors) in a style hauntingly reminiscent of Kabuki and ancient Greek Drama. The various styles required by Washburn's book and lyrics and Michael Friedman's score have been vividly staged by Mark

Rucker and music director David Moschler.

NEXT TO NORMAL

Through May 17

Yellow Tree Theatre

320 Fifth Ave. SE, Osseo

(763) 493-8733

www.yellowtreetheatre.com

Director Ben McGovern has staged the rock hit, *Next to Normal*. Music by Tom Kitt. Lyrics and book by Brian Yorkey. McGovern admires the piece "because of its unflinching look at mental illness, a topic normally approached with prosaic and clinical dryness, if it is approached at all. This show treats the subject with soaring riffs and emotional amplification of a rock musical. Because of the heightened reality that musical storytelling brings to the subject, it affords the story a lightness of spirit that makes delving into the darkness of the subject less daunting. The metaphor of light and dark is explored throughout the story and asks us to publicly reflect on an illness that is often hidden from the public eye."

PUSSY VALLEY

Through May 10

Mixed Blood Theatre

1501 S. 4th St., Mpls.

(612) 338-6131

www.mixedblood.com

Katori Hall's new play compares the lives of strippers in the context of pole dancing. Set in a club called the Pink Pony, she calls it "an intimate window into the southern strip club world. For each of these women, a choice



Next to Normal. Photo by Michal Daniel

A TIP FROM A
**FORMER
SMOKER**

**Be prepared.
Your lung cancer can
spread to your brain.**

Rose, age 59, Texas



Smoking caused Rose's lung cancer. She had to move from the small town she loved to get the treatment she needed, including chemo, radiation and having part of her lung removed. Recently, her cancer spread to her brain. You can quit.

CALL 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
CDC.gov/tips

#CDCTips

has been made. For some it's a step down, for others a step up as the Pink Pony stage constantly shape-shifts from a platform for freedom into a gilded cage."

Nicco Annan, who plays Uncle Clifford, points out that the play uses derisive terms for a reason: "In the world of *Pussy Valley* we see these words reappropriated into a position of power. There's an element of vulnerability and fear of intimacy in gay culture and it is often shielded by arrogance. Oftentimes, that arrogance can be the thing that keeps you alive. It becomes the armor from hateful words."

VIETNAM: A WINDOW TO WAR

Through May 22

Hennepin County Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls.
(612) 543-5669
www.hclib.org

Looking at James R. Thompson's superb photographs from his experience as an American soldier in Vietnam in the early 1970s I was struck by the youthful innocence of almost all the young American men pictured. They starkly contrast the crustiness of older soldiers in one of the photos. About 59,000 Americans died and there were thousands more casualties.

Some of the poor rural Vietnamese, of whom over one million were killed and several thousands more injured, are tenderly shown. The humble faces of the old and the vibrant ones of the very young are very touching. Thompson's images intrinsically reveal not fear or prejudice, but a disconnect between the two cultures.

The human focus of the exhibit is brightly contrasted with the luminous steps of a temple. As we now go into the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War as we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, *Vietnam: A Window to War* holds a



Vietnam: A Window to War. Photo by James Thompson

sacred kind of power. Presented in collaboration with the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota.

Q-STAGE: NEW WORKS SERIES

Through May 9
Intermedia Arts
2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls.
(612) 871-4444
www.intermediaarts.org

20% Theatre Company Twin Cities and Intermedia Arts present three sets of experimental performance works newly minted by local queer-identified artists. In Set A, Andrea Jenkins gives an African-American transgender perspective in *Body Parts: Intersectionality*. The automobile and queer culture are mused on in *The Escape Machines: Power is Nothing Without Control* created and performed by Elyssa Kilman, Basil Kreimendahl, and Emily Zimmer. Set B includes Harrison David Rivers' drag take on Euripedes's *Trojan Women* titled *And She Would Stand Like This*. Lucy Lucas Valentine's solo show is *Mark: Un-Gendered, Intra-Black, and Overtly Emotive*. Set C offers Deja Stowers' ideas about the body and how it fits into the world we live in; Kenna Cottman performs. Shannon Forney's *Femme Cabaret: a Clown Burlesque* is a playful solo take on queer femme identity from a clown perspective. ■



Q-STAGE: New Works Series. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Lawrence Photography

CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

OVER 25 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE.



- Family/Divorce/Custody
- Injuries/Auto Accidents
- Second/Step Parent Adoption
- Wills & Trusts
- Domestic Partnerships/Dissolution
- Probate
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Business Law
- Sperm/Egg Donor Agreements
- Employment Law
- Gay Marriage Advice
- Bankruptcy



Convenient Downtown
Skyway Connected Offices

Elizabeth Cloutier
PFLAG Member

612.332.5100

www.cloutier-law.com

1005 Historic Lumber Exchange Building
10 S. 5th St. Minneapolis, MN 55402

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION



Visit our Facebook page
Big Gay Moose Softball Team

LAVENDER'S

Nights at the Theater

Thursday, May 14

**\$57 dinner &
show tickets***

(\$15 SAVINGS!)

Use code:

LAVENDERMP

Dinner starts at 6:00

Show starts at 8:00

*Offer subject to availability.
Not valid on previously
purchased tickets.

**"A JOYFUL
production...
experience
the MAGIC."**

— Cherry and Spoon

"DYNAMITE!"

— KS95 Radio



Ann Mitchell

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL



HILARIOUS!

Improv Comedy

Fri & Sat eves • Just \$28!

May 1 - 2

RIVER

*The Music of
Carole King,
Joni Mitchell
and Carly Simon*



May 15 - 16

**THE SOUND
OF SIMON**

*A Tribute to Simon
and Garfunkel*

952-934-1525

Chanhassen
DINNER THEATRES

800-362-3515

ChanhassenDT.com

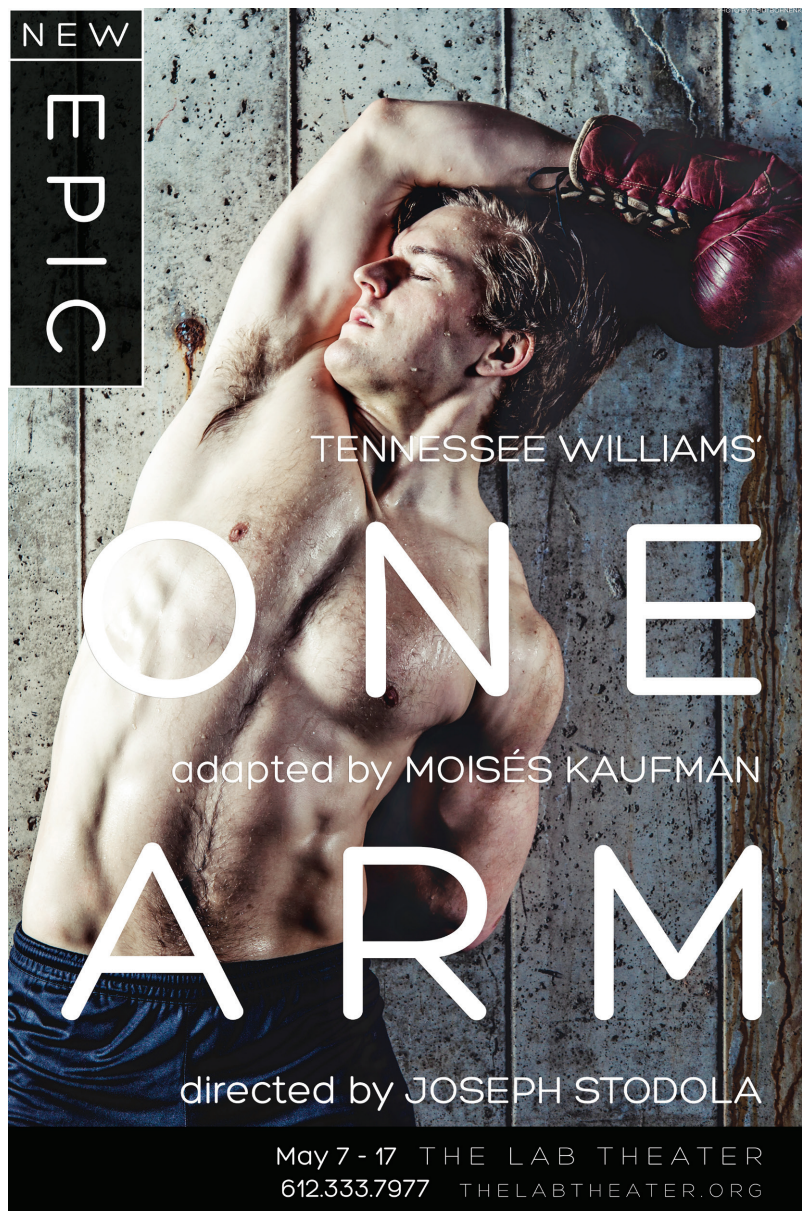
Tennessee Williams' **One Arm:** A Powerful Gay Screenplay Rejected by Hollywood Finds a Home on Stage at the Lab

Tennessee Williams looms as arguably the greatest gay and the greatest American playwright. But he also wrote remarkable fiction. In 1942 he created a jolting short story before *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* shook the theater world. *One Arm* is about a sailor named Ollie who becomes a boxing champ. When he loses an arm in an auto crash, he is compelled to sell his body to survive. Williams wrote and rewrote it into screenplays but it was too hot to handle for the studios.

Though Hollywood conservatism is much to blame for that, it must be recalled that numerous gay activists could be fanatical that gay representations on screen should be positive. Tragi-

cally, two Oscar-caliber lead performances — Rod Steiger in *The Sergeant* and Frank Sinatra in *The Detective* — were overlooked in the 1960s by the Academy, to a large extent, because of politically correct gay activists. The same surely would have happened with *Brokeback Mountain* had it emerged then and as a recent example, the ferociously honest *Hot Guys With Guns* has been relegated to the margins.

Thankfully, playwright and theatrical collaborator Moises Kaufman (*Gross Indecency*, *The Laramie Project*), also a notable researcher, was, in his words, “struck by its frankness and emotional rawness. In it Williams portrays a world he knew intimately with remarkable honesty and



NEW
EPIC

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'

ONE

adapted by MOISÉS KAUFMAN

ARM

directed by JOSEPH STODOLA

May 7 - 17 THE LAB THEATER
612.333.7977 THELABTHEATER.ORG



candor.” Kaufman’s team located several drafts of the screenplay and he adapted it into what he calls a “sort of ‘theatrical screenplay.’”

At last year’s Minnesota Fringe Festival, director Joseph Stodola staged a brilliant edited version of Kaufman’s adaptation. He has now directed the full-length version of the play for New Epic Theatre at the Lab. He calls *One Arm* “Williams’s dismemberment of the consummate masculine ideal” and that it “strikes at a universal desire to connect and (is) a plain assessment of sex’s ability to facilitate or stunt that attempt.”

Handsome Torsten Johnson, who wowed audiences as the white gay football player in love with a black player in Andrew Hinderaker’s *Colossal* at Mixed Blood last year, plays Ollie. He says the character “has an uncontrollable fire inside of him. It rages and wails, it is lonely, angry,

sad, and ecstatic. Ollie throws himself into everyone he meets and his words hit like jabs, hooks, and uppercuts. He lets everyone into his heart and no one. He bears his armlessness proudly. Yet it is the biggest thing standing between him and true intimacy, the soft spot he mercilessly protects. His body is his pride and his weakness, his strength and sorrow.” ■

ONE ARM

May 7 – 17

Lab Theater, 700. N. 1st St., Mpls.

(612) 333-7977

www.thelabtheater.org

2015

GLBT Yellow Pages &
Wedding Resource Guide

LavenderYellowPages.com



Parti La Belle

LET'S DIVA!
SATURDAY, JUNE 6
TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

mysticlake.com

Owned and Operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Mystic LAKE®



Southern fried chicken that lives up to our anticipation. As cozy and comforting as the skirt of Grandma's apron.

Revival

We were promised fried chicken. Up until now, the fried chicken selection of the Twin Cities was sparse. There were some broaster birds, the addictive breast strips at The Rabbit Hole, several good wings, but no down-home, crispy-shelled, juicy, meaty full-on fried chickens.

When the crew behind Corner Table picked up and moved their restaurant down the block they began to ruminate about plans for the restaurant space they were leaving behind. I remember Nick Ranco-

ne stroking his full blond beard like a Bond villain when he declared, "Good fried chicken — the best in town." They were boastful words. Chef Thomas Boemer's eyes would reflexively close as he rhapsodized, "Soaked in buttermilk and coated in flour. It's so simple and so good." My stomach grumbled in protest. Practically a year after these conversations — which in gastronomical time felt like a lifetime — we waited.

With every meal eaten at Corner Table these two would tease



LAVENDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

ONLY \$100

Announcement includes photo and up to 50 words. Appears in print, online iPad and iPhone editions for 2 weeks.

For more information call
612-436-4698

ANNOUNCING

Jakeeno's
Pizza & Pasta
*** SINCE 1975 ***

**OPEN EVERYDAY
at 11am with
New Happy Hours**

612.825.6827
3555 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis



noah wolf


**D'AMICO
CATERING**

612.238.4444 damico.com


NEED WINDOWS?

relax...window quotes in 5 minutes!

- No Pushy Salesman In Your Home
- Lifetime Glass Breakage Warranty
- No Down Payment
- No Pricing Games, Fake Discounts, or Price Drops



"meditate, relax, be one with the universe - and never ever allow a window salesman into your home."



ZEN WINDOWS
relax...window quotes in 5 minutes.

(763) 350-6647 | ZenWindowsTwinCities.com



FOC MAP.COM

Fully Indexed, Fully Searchable,
FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY MAP®
WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND IT, FOC IT!



**eat
good
FOOD**
it's that simple.

**OUR NEWEST
LOCATION**
3808 West 50th Street
Minneapolis • 612-927-4464

The NEW 50TH Street Cafe

The NEW UPTOWN Diner
Hennepin Ave. & West 26th
Minneapolis • 612-874-0481

The NEW Louisiana Cafe
Selby & Dale
Saint Paul • 651-221-9140

The NEW WOODBURY Cafe
Bielenberg & Tamarack
Woodbury • 651-209-8182

The NEW Grandview Grill
Grand Ave. & Fairview
Saint Paul • 651-698-2346



LAVENDER'S
Out in the
Stands

PRESENTED BY

LAVENDER **RetelOne** **Ameriprise**
VODKA Financial

FRIDAY, JULY 24 • 7:05 PM
ST. PAUL SAINTS vs. LINCOLN SALTDogs
CHS FIELD • LOWERTOWN ST. PAUL

500 Tickets in a Special Reserved Section

YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:
Reserved seating in the beautiful new CHS Field
Great view of the game + Post-game party

OUT IN THE STANDS TICKETS: \$25
Order your tickets at LavenderMagazine.com/summerofpride

FOOD & DINING BY JOY SUMMERS

Not to be overlooked: the burger with
bacon and Revival sauce.

me with single dropped words. “Biscuits,” Rancone whispered as he poured my wine.

Lording over the grill Boemer would chuckle, “Collards.”

White Lily flour was sourced (which turned out to be no small feat). Recipes were tested. A burger joined the crowd. A cook with proper Southern pedigree to match Boemer’s was hired. The space on Nicollet was utterly transformed. The dropped office-style ceiling was torn out to reveal pressed tin and an entire bank of high windows were uncovered. Snappy ’70s rec-room evocative wallpaper went up. Long wooden booths were installed. Fryers arrived and finally, *finally* the first few batches of fried chicken arrived. Eaters lined up the second the doors opened.

I first wrote of Corner Table’s ownership change in these pages (www.lavendermagazine.com/our-scene/slice-corner-table/). Nick and Chenny Rancone bought the neighborhood bistro from Scott Pampuch. Chef Thomas Boemer at first ran the kitchen, but then also bought in as an owner. They won the hearts and stomachs of skeptics as well as long-time sustainable food fans by continuing to cultivate relationships with local farmers, while simultaneously serving plates of humbly elegant food.

They moved the business down the street to the more spacious digs that once housed La Chaya Bistro on 46th and Nicollet Ave. The space added several more seats, a more refined room, and a lovely patio space with a giant, rock sculpture.

Not only did Boemer’s food blossom and grow, Rancone’s wine list

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ➔



**SERVING YOUR
3 FAVORITES**

{burgers, beer & wine}

**IN OUR 3
FAVORITE
NEIGHBORHOODS**

MPLS | 50TH STREET

3624 W 50th St

ST. PAUL | CATHEDRAL HILL

393 Selby Avenue

MPLS | NORTH LOOP

208 1st Avenue N



RED COW

• fine burgers, beer & wine •

**EVERY MOM IS THE
BEST MOM IN THE WORLD**

But yours really is

MOTHER'S DAY • MAY 10, 2015

\$37⁹⁵

4-COURSE DINNER

The Melting Pot
a fondue restaurant

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED • (612) 338-9900 • MELTINGPOT.COM
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

NOW - MAY 17

**AND THE
WORLD
GOES 'ROUND**

THE SONGS OF KANDER AND EBB

BRADLEY GREENWALD

WITH TIFFANY SEYMOUR, BETTI BATTOCLETTI, THERESE WALTH,
EMILY ROSE SKINNER, JON WHITTIER AND WILLIAM GILNESS

JUNGLETHEATER.com (612) 822-7063

**burger
moes**

**BEST
BURGER
in TOWN!**



**Two Happy Hours
7 days a week!**
3-6pm and 9pm-1am

\$1 Off All Bottled Beer & Cocktails
\$5 Off All Buckets O' Beer
\$2 Off All Burgers After 9pm

Enjoy \$3 Martinis During Happy Hour
on Monday & Tuesdays!

**Not applicable during Xcel Energy Center events

Close to the Xcel Energy Center & The Ordway | www.burgermoes.com
242 West 7th Street | Saint Paul, MN 55102 | 651.222.3100

developed into one of the most intriguing in town. And yet...there was the trouble of the fried chicken. There was a brief (and wildly popular) brunch service that held a few hints of what was planned for Revival. During Open Streets last summer there were a few more bites of promise. But, still we had to wait — that is, until early March.

My first plate of fried chicken arrived in a tower, cascades of hot juices erupted from the bird and glistened at the crispy battered edges. The Tennessee Hot fried chicken positively glowed from within with layers of bright spices. The Southern fried chicken wasn't as red, but golden, and as cozy and comforting as the skirt of Grandma's apron.

The first bite of the Southern fried shattered as my teeth tore into the tender, moist flesh. The crust is so perfectly, exquisitely simple: flaky in texture, seasoned to the edge of salty and then pulled back and down into the chickeniest of chicken meat. The Tennessee Hot was heavily spiced with a tiny touch of sweetness to balance the addictive inferno. The skin retained the crusty crunch as it spread a summer sun heat from the inside out.

The fried chicken is just one of the many items listed on the menu and the other offerings deserve attention, too. The greens are possibly the best I've had in years, deep, rich with a balanced earthiness and a pool of juices worth licking out of the bottom of the bowl. Thin threads of crispy fried pig ears are tossed amongst a bed of fresh greens which is entirely bright, light, and lovely. The wedge salad finally explains how a chunk of iceberg lettuce could become a salad classic: tangy, black pepper-seasoned buttermilk dressing is studded with pork-redolent bacon and creamy-crumbly blue cheese, and more satisfying than a crunchy bit of moisture-rich greens has any right to be. Johnny cakes are everything glorious about brunch: savory and sweet, they're corny

pancakes that are stuffed with cheese and graced with cowpeas, syrup, and a poached egg that spills forth in all its yolky glory. There are pork rinds that taste like Funyons. I mean...come ON!

And then there is the burger. Oh, good glory — were we crying out for another great burger? Where the chicken fills a vacant cavern of craving, the burger has to join an impressive list of great beefy bites in the Twin Cities. Yet, those other classics are going to need to move over: Parlour be forewarned, it's gunning for your seat as top patty in town. Grass-fed beef, ground in-house, is more succulent than any other sustainably raised burger I've tasted. Pure, unadulterated, dripping down your chin hamburger glory exists in that first bite. A perfectly squishy bun collapses into the fat hunks of bacon, pulls against the threads of melted cheese draped atop of the meat, and mingles with a careful swab of mayonnaise. House-made pickles are just sweet, tart, and salty enough to cut that generous fat. Dabbing the whole business with a bit of the sweet potato-based Revival sauce that arrived with my entrée didn't hurt anybody's feelings, either. Again, the sauce dances on that edge of several flavors, playing in the hinterlands of great, undiscovered flavors that arrive shockingly familiar upon the tongue.

The beer and wine list are uniquely geared for pairing with this food; selections are light and fun to taste your way through.

But...first you must start with the fried chicken. We were promised great fried chicken and after an excruciating wait, it has arrived. ■

REVIVAL

www.revivalmpls.com
4257 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis
612-345-4516

1st Sunday of Every Month
ALL AGES WELCOME

Egg & Drag

ALL YOU CAN EAT
\$14 BREAKFAST BUFFET
\$7 (12 & UNDER)
\$10 BOTTOMLESS MIMOSA

11-2PM

408 Hennepin Ave S • MPLS, MN 55401 • GAY90S.COM

eagle BOLT bar

LUNCH & BRUNCH

LUNCH PUNCH CARD COME IN FOR LUNCH 5 TIMES GET YOUR 6TH ON THE HOUSE

BRUNCH \$4 MIMOSAS & BLOODY MARYS WITH A MAKE YOUR OWN BLOODY MARY BAR

MOST ENTREES UNDER \$10

WEEKDAYS
LUNCH: 11AM - 2PM
DINNER: 4PM - 10PM

WEEKENDS
BRUNCH: 10AM - 2PM
LUNCH/DINNER: 2PM - 10PM

515 S WASHINGTON AVE. MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Client Focused. Results Driven.



* **Melissa Houghtaling

*Rebecca Heltzer



HELTZER & HOUGHTALING, P.A.

Real Estate, Divorce, Child Custody/Child Support,
Landlord/Tenant, Litigation and Probate.

*Selected to the Super Lawyers List

**Rule 114 Civil and Family Law Mediator

413 Wacouta St., Suite 430, St. Paul • (651) 330-8508
WWW.HELTZERHOUGHTALING.COM



Everyone deserves to be in good hands.SM

I believe you have the right to feel safe being who you are, wherever you are - especially in my office. Let me help protect all that's good in your life. Call me today for a quote.



Tom Baecker, LUTCF, CLU
651-730-6666

373 Pedersen St., Ste. 104
St. Paul
tombaecker@allstate.com



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Auto Home Life Retirement

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Indemnity Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2013 Allstate Insurance Co.

121847



AM950

Listen at
AM950radio.com
or on our App

ENJOY OUR OUTDOOR SMOKING PATIO
JUKEBOX • VIDEO GAMES • 75¢ POOL TABLES • PINBALL
DARTS • PULL TABS • ATM MACHINE ON PREMISES
OPEN: MON.-FRI. 3 PM-2 AM • SAT.-SUN. 1 PM-2 AM

Singles Pool TOURNAMENT
Sun., May 17 • 4 PM

YOUR BARTENDER
DAVID

19 BAR

NEVER A COVER CHARGE
Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1952
19 W. 15th St., Minneapolis • (612) 871-5553 • www.19bar.itgo.com

"like" us on facebook



As average a player as I was, the basketball court was a refuge for me, a safe haven, a hiding place. Here there was no talk of boys, of dating.

Playing for the Other Team Catch-22

So it's *Lavender's* sports issue. You should write a piece about the GLBT population, and why and how sports are important, they said. You know, like your other columns, but more broadly, they said. It'll be easy, they said.

And at first, I thought yeah, this is easy. I mean, why do we play sports? Well, for all the reasons everyone else does, of course. Make friends. Stay in shape. Have fun. Win games. But, maybe, for us, isn't it also because if you throw a pigskin seventy yards, or jump higher than everyone else, or run faster, or hit a ball over a fence, it might not matter if you're purple and have horns growing out of your head; you'll be accepted? Maybe admired? Maybe people will love you? Maybe they'll even want to be purple with horns growing out of their heads, too?

That's what I used to think. I knew, as a child, that I was different, as most of those in the GLBT population do. I even knew how I was different, even if I didn't have the vocabulary to put a word to it. I felt awkward and embarrassed every time my classmates would excitedly giggle about which boys they wanted to kiss. I wanted to go home during sleepovers whenever the conversation turned to imaginary boyfriends who were supposed to whisk us away to magical lands like California and Paris. God forbid we ever play that horrible game MASH, which only happened every day, where my friends would stare at me expectantly and suspiciously as I tried to come up with "four boys" I liked. (It was much easier to name "four cars I wanted." Chevy pickup, Ford pickup, snowmobile, four-wheeler, thank you.) Yes, I knew I was quite different than all the other girls. And I didn't want to be. I wanted to be very much the same.

For girls, Owen, WI, population 900, is a basketball town. Home games are crowded, boisterous events. Game recaps make up a large portion of the local newspapers. Varsity athletes walk the halls of the high school with pride and the underclassmen revere them. As a kid, summer basketball camp and open gyms were the place to be. To me they represented a place for me to blend in and I willed myself to succeed, because maybe here there would be no expectant and suspicious stares. As average a player as I was, the basketball court was a refuge for me, a safe haven, a hiding place. Here there was no talk of boys, of dating. There was just, "How many free throws can you make in a row?" The same was true as I tried Little League, and then softball, through middle school and high school. It's hard, being a gay kid. I internalized it all, the

anxiety of which I still struggle with, to this day. Playing on a team with other girls, acting "just like everyone else," allowed me to come out of my shell and gave me some semblance of confidence, when, really, I wasn't very confident in the least.

That's just me, though. My personal relationship with athletics. I imagine other lesbians share a similar experience — in fact, I know they do, because sometimes we share these stories over our beers. This story isn't everyone's, though. I eventually came out, of course, and didn't participate in sports at the college level. Because of this, I didn't endure the homophobia that still pervades sports at higher levels. That wasn't the case, for say, Brittney Griner, who waited until she graduated and was a sure thing for the WNBA before announcing that she was gay. Looking back a few years, it wasn't the case for Billie Jean King, who developed an eating disorder and worried her career would be over if she were outed. And it definitely wasn't the case for one of the greatest female athletic pioneers of the last century, the Olympian (1932) Babe Didrikson, who excelled at every sport: basketball, track, baseball, tennis, swimming, and boxing, to name a very few, and later became a world-champion golfer. She was forced into marrying a man to combat the negative press surrounding her appearance and lack of interest in the feminine, and only eventually cohabitated with her "golf partner," Betty Dodd, before dying at an early age. For these women, sports may not have been a refuge, but a homophobic trap into the closet.

I know, too, from the gay men and transgender athletes I've interviewed for this column, that my story is not their story either. Unlike some gay men I've spoken with, I didn't play to prove my toughness or my masculinity. Unlike my trans friends, I was able to play as my identified gender, with teammates who were also the same gender.

And so, our relationship with athletics has always been something of a catch-22. To some extent, on some levels, our enjoyment of athletics has also been self-defeating. There are too many players that hide in order to play, and one too many Michael Sams that come out to be passed over. Too many men and women coaching from deep in the closet. In order to achieve greatness, we must also suffer. The vicious cycle. Bit by bit, though, hero by hero, this is changing. Each Sam, every Abby Wambach, every Jaiyah Saelua, every #BeTrue campaign gives me hope that maybe soon our relationship with sports will be one of wedded bliss. ■


BY NELL GELHAUS

LAVENDER'S
Nights
 at the Theater

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S
MARY POPPINS
 THE BROADWAY MUSICAL



Thursday, May 14
 7:00pm
 Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
 Ask for Lavender Discount
 (952) 934-1525
www.ChanhassenDT.com



Late Nite Catechism
 by Vicki Quade & Maripat Donovan

Friday, May 8 • 7:30 PM
 Plymouth Playhouse
 2705 Annapolis Ln. N., Plymouth, MN
 (763) 553-1600
 Ask for Lavender Night Discount & save \$10
www.plymouthplayhouse.com

*Integrity
 Experience
 Results*

JERRY A. BURG
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

Over 20 Years Experience in:
 Family Law | Criminal Defense
 Employment Law

3009 Holmes Ave. S. • Minneapolis
 (612) 822-0865
www.jerryaburg.com



**WALK
 THE
 WALK**

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015
 MINNEHAHA PARK

REGISTER YOU AND YOUR DOG AT
MNAIDSWALK.ORG




RBC Wealth Management



Walgreens
 AT THE CORNER OF HAPPY & HEALTHY™





The culture and openness in the Twin Cities toward the GLBT community has an effect on sports and sports teams.

METRO GLBTA SPORTS

The GLBT sports scene in the Twin Cities is alive and well. There are numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports, either within GLBT-focused leagues or through many other opportunities that welcome and embrace diversity. The culture and openness in the Twin Cities toward the GLBT community has an effect on sports and sports teams. You can find GLBT-friendly teams and leagues all over the Metro that foster a healthy environment for people to be themselves and not feel the need to hide anything. Even at the professional level, the major sports teams (e.g. the Wild, the Twins, the Lynx etc.) have been open and welcoming to the community. The teams and leagues below welcome you to their ranks as an athlete, or in the stands as a fan.

OUTWOODS

Outdoor Recreation

Co-Ed

Year-round

www.outwoods.org

Outwoods is a volunteer-run vehicle for the GLBT community and allies to publicize quality, enjoyable, non-competitive, outdoor recreational activities. The best way to learn about Outwoods and meet other people is to participate in an event. There is no person or committee that plans activities; trips happen when individuals submit their listings to the newsletter and/or meetup. The one principle underlying all Outwoods activities is volunteerism: the success of the club depends on the willingness of people to organize activities.

MSP FRONTRUNNERS

Running/Walking

Co-Ed

Year-round

www.mspfrontrunners.org

Funday Monday Bowling League. Photo courtesy of Steve Nardini



Since 1982, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Front-runners has been a running and walking club for GLBT people and friends. The group organizes weekly runs and walks and periodic social events. If you're thinking about joining for a run or walk, let the group know you're coming and they'll keep an eye out for you. Everyone is welcome, including out-of-town visitors and area residents who would like to join. The Front-runners have three outdoor runs/walks per week during the warmer months and a Sunday outdoor run year-round. People of all abilities and fitness levels are welcome and encouraged to join.

GLASS

Tennis & Volleyball

Co-Ed

Year-round

www.glasssports.org

GLASS, or the Gay and Lesbian Amateur Sport Society, seeks to foster and coordinate local, national, and international

BY SHANE LUECK

Minnesota Machine. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Machine

amateur competition, to promote sportsmanlike conduct, and to provide positive social activities for the GLBT community and their allies.

FUNDAY MONDAY BOWLING LEAGUE

Bowling
Co-Ed

12 weeks, beginning in January
www.midwayprobowling.com

A non-sanctioned GLBT (and allies!) league that plays with three-person teams.

MINNESOTA MACHINE

Football
Women

April – June

www.mnmachine.com

The Minnesota Machine are a sixth-year women's tackle football team here in the Twin Cities, a member of the national Women's Football Alliance, and comprised of women from the age of 18 to the upper 40s. Proudly representing women of all shapes, sizes, colors, ethnicities, backgrounds, and experience, the Machine play full-pads, full-uniforms, 11-v-11. Coaches are former NFL, semi-professional, and college athletes. Many of the athletes come from Division I or II in college, and some haven't played since high school but still have the ambition. Bree Murphy says that in order for her to join a team, there has to be a good vibe. "I look for teams that feel like family. This is why I love playing for the MN Machine," she says. "I've played lots of sports on many different teams, but nothing compares to the family feeling I get from this women's football team. The MN Machine is how all teams should be. We are supportive, encouraging, and not only help each other with being a better player, but are receptive to the advice." She also enjoys that the Machine isn't a strictly GLBT team, enjoying the support regardless of personal differences. "The MN Machine brings people together that would normally never hang out. This team has provided friendships to those who are not great at making friends and has given women who feel unappreciated the gratitude and support they need. We are all parts of a larger machine that only works if we are all together."

MINNESOTA VIXEN

Football
Women

April – June

www.mnvixen.com

Established in 1999, the Vixen are the longest continuously operating women's American football team in the nation. The team plays



full-contact, tackle football following a combination of NCAA and NFL rules. The season is from April to June each year with playoffs in July. 2015 marks the beginning of their 17th season. In 2014, the Vixen's record was 6-2 with an invite to the inaugural Legacy Bowl in South



Minnesota Vixen. Photo by Mark Kuznia Photography

Carolina. As part of the Midwest Division in the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL), the Vixen will face the Iowa Crush, Wisconsin Warriors, Madison Blaze, and the Nebraska Stampede in 2015. Women's tackle football has an ally in the Minnesota Vixen. "We're a proud women's tackle team that accepts everyone from different walks of life," says Drue Barber, a player in her 14th season with the team. Her teammate, Amanda Barbier echoes those sentiments. She says, "As a woman it can be hard to find a sports team to join that is very serious about playing

hard and winning games. As a lesbian it's even harder to feel like you've found a team environment that is completely accepting. The Minnesota Vixen offer both those things." Markeeta Shannon, another player, says that, on the field, it's about the game. "Being a part of the MN Vixen is a great way for 'us' to shed light on the stereotypes people have given us and create the image we want for our GLBT community," she says. "Although I personally am a proud individual who identifies herself as a bisexual, I feel it is also just as important to emphasize that not all female athletes fit into this category. Several of my teammates are heterosexual with husbands and kids but find themselves consistently being wrongfully labeled. To be honest, none of us are here to fight the perception people have about us...we are simply here because we are athletes who love the game."

MAYHEM RFC

Rugby
Men

Spring: April – June

Summer: June – August

Fall: August – October

www.mayhemrftc.com

"Through diversity in sports, athleticism, inclusivity, and brotherhood," the Minneapolis Mayhem Rugby Football club has been "empowering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ➔

SPORTS & Outdoors

Northern Lights. Photo by Suzie Swanson



Mayhem RFC. Photo by Joshua Bosch

Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League. Photo by Larry Barthel/Triquetra Productions

gay men and their allies through competitive rugby” for the last eleven years. With this mission statement at the core, membership is primarily comprised of those who self-identify as gay, but many allies are also active members of the club and board. The Mayhem competes in the Minnesota Rugby Football Union against other rugby football clubs in the area, as well as in the International Gay Rugby (IGR) Union against national and international ones. “It can be quite scary off the bat, especially for guys who have no idea how rugby works and maybe haven’t played a team sport since elementary school, but players who dive in and challenge themselves usually get hooked,” says Matthew Alley. “Once we get outdoors for practice and can actually get into contact, rugby becomes really exciting. Nothing is more gratifying for a veteran player than watching the transformation that occurs when a rookie makes their first big tackle.”



’80s by women, for women. The league is committed to providing and promoting a fun and friendly environment for all women, regardless of age, ability, or sexual preference. “The Northern Lights Women’s Softball League fits nicely among all the opportunities for women to play softball in the area,” says Suzie Swanson. “It has always been important to the league to welcome women a place to play softball that is more about fun and community than it is about winning.” While games are competitive and there is typically a tournament at the end of each season, the primary mission of the league is to offer a summer’s worth of fun playing softball. Every summer, more than 100 women gather on Sundays for an afternoon of fun, community, friendship and softball.

NORTHERN LIGHTS WOMEN’S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Softball

Women

May – August

www.facebook.com/nlwsf.twincities

The Northern Lights Women’s Softball League was created in the

TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Softball

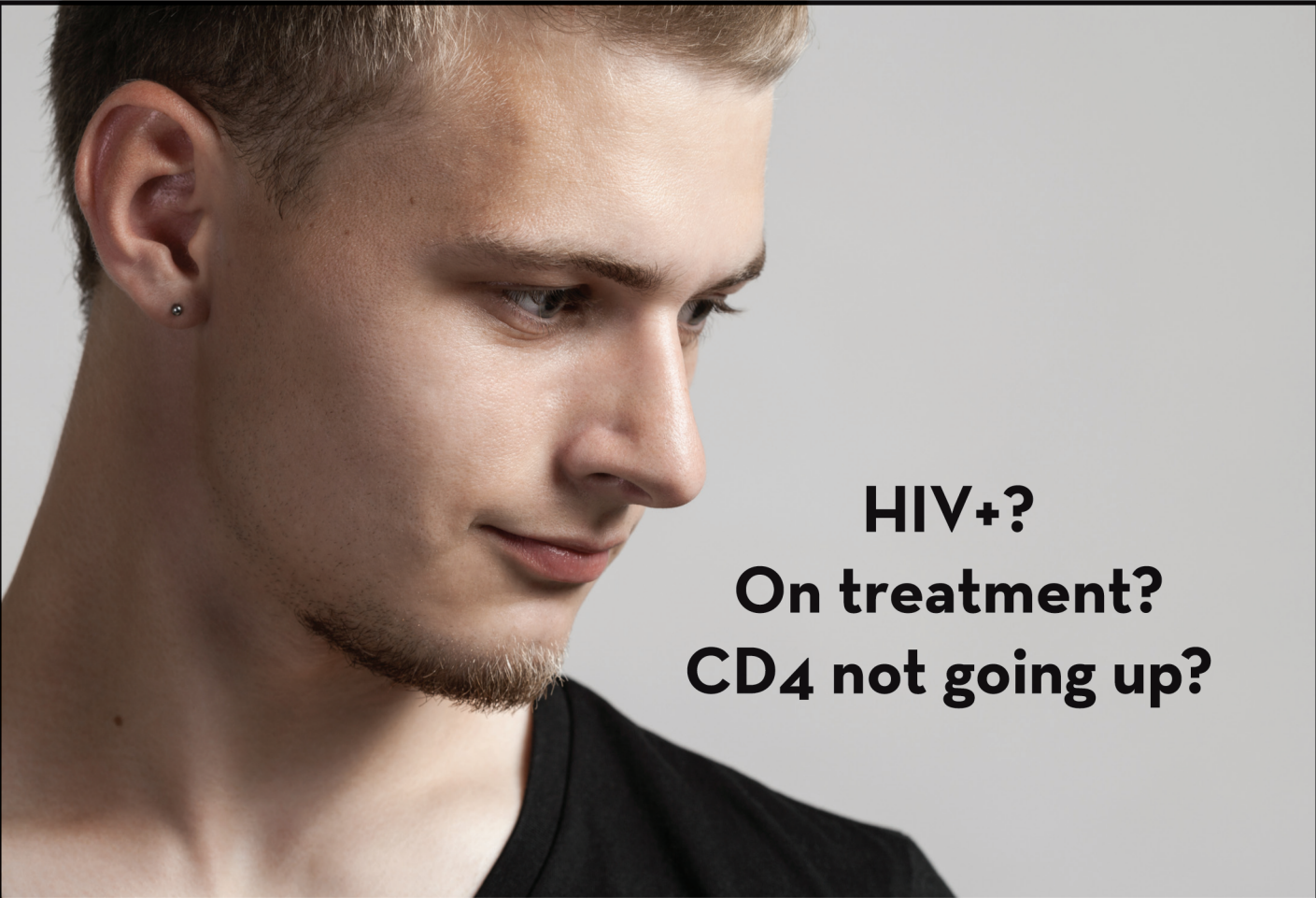
Men

May – August

www.tcgsf.leagueapps.com

The Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL) is about to embark on its 37th season. With over 550 players making up over 35 teams, the league is one of the largest and most successful members of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). Allowing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ➔



**HIV+?
On treatment?
CD4 not going up?**

Join a study at the University of Minnesota
that is using an innovative new therapy to
boost CD4 cells and restore normal immunity.

Call today and see if you qualify.

612-625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Twin Cities Jacks. Photo by Ryan Adams

players of all backgrounds, orientations, and abilities to have fun while competing may be the key to TCGSL's success. The league is also a place for competition, and is open to anyone with a desire to play. Kevin Johnson said, "I love that no matter what your player skill level is everyone is supportive of a player and makes them feel welcome. The league is like a huge family. And we all look after each other."

TWIN CITIES JACKS

Soccer

Co-Ed

Pick-up: May – October

League play: Year-round

www.tcjacks.org

Founded in 2007, the Twin Cities Jacks is the only GLBT soccer club in Minnesota. The TC Jacks field teams in local, national, and international tournaments, host social outings for GLBT soccer fans, promote the sport of soccer to the GLBT community, and educate other soccer organizations about homophobia in sports. The team is a safe space for members of the GLBT community to enjoy the sport of soccer, either as a player or a fan, and welcome all members of the GLBT community (and allies!) to join in the game. Andy Birkey, player and team treasurer, says that being a part of a sport team that doesn't judge you on all the orientation and gender norms makes sports fun again. "I remember hating organized sports when I was younger due to having to be a fake me the whole time," he says. "I loved the game but I hated the 'me' I had to be to be able to play something I enjoyed. TC Jacks changed



all that." Team member Robert Felton found a sense of home among the team. "I just remember that when I moved to Minneapolis I was excited to meet people and the first thing I did was Google 'gay sports teams' and I was amazed by the options," Felton says. "I made friends and started having new people of all unique backgrounds to do social activities with. I really see me joining these groups as the beginning of myself referring to Minneapolis as 'home.'" The Jacks have weekly pick-up soccer matches in the park all summer.

MILL CITY HOOPS

Basketball

Men

3-on-3 Pride Weekend, 5-on-5 beginning in October

www.facebook.com/MillCityHoop

Mill City Hoops is a Minneapolis based basketball league for gay men and straight allies that debuted last summer during Pride. Prior to then, the Twin Cities hadn't been home to a GLBT-centric basketball league in approximately five years. The mission of the

league is three-fold: to foster community pride, support healthy lifestyle choices, and nurture and grow Minneapolis's national reputation. League events include the Pride Week Shirts and Skins Tournament as well as a 5-on-5 Full Court League that runs in the fall.

NORTH STAR GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

Rodeo

Co-Ed

July

www.nsgra.org

The North Star Gay Rodeo Association was founded by five rodeo enthusiasts in October of 1989. By mid-January 1990, NSGRA was officially recognized by the International Gay Rodeo Association as a member association. Membership grew quickly from five to 75 in less than one year. However, due to a shaky economy, the NSGRA decided to postpone hosting rodeos in 2011 until sponsorships and community support returned. After a several year hiatus, the rodeos return in July. "I've been involved in gay rodeo for almost 30 years," says Dan Van Wyk, the president of NSGRA. "Like many sports and teams, we've had good years and bad ones. But what draws me, and I think many people to it, is the down-to-earth aspect of it. You don't have to spend a lot of money on equipment, unless you are involved with horses. You can train at your own pace, and compete in many events for decades." He goes on to say that it's important to support GLBT teams and players as much as possible. "They are important role models for the younger generations, and provide safe meeting places and social opportunities that are important for people to get to know each other somewhere

North Star Gay Rodeo Association.

Photo by Dan Van Wyk





Minnesota Valkyries Rugby.
Photo by Joshua Bosch

other than over a drink or on a dance floor. It's a great way to build self confidence, to learn to be a good loser, and a good winner."

MINNESOTA VALKYRIES RUGBY

Rugby

Women

August – June

www.valkyriesrugby.org

The Valkyries have a 30-plus year legacy of rugby in Minnesota. The team is a GLBT-friendly group of strong, driven women. There is a great mix of competitiveness along with the ability to have fun and truly enjoy the sport. "The Valkyries are a group of women who are all trying to succeed in life," says Amy Curtis. "We all have to find the balance of work, family, relationships, personal growth and, of course, rugby. We are all strong women with opinions and ideas and we know what we bring to the team. But, what overshadows that, is the fact that we know and appreciate what our teammates bring to the team more. We work hard at practice and expect our teammates to do the same. It's often said, 'Play to make your teammate look good.' That's pretty remarkable and selfless. That's the reason I play for the Valkyries."

TWIN CITIES FRIDAY LEAGUE

Bowling

Co-Ed

September – April

www.midwayprobowl.com

A sanctioned GLBT and straight-friendly league with a handicap structure that plays with four-person teams.

WEDNESDAY RAINBOW LEAGUE

Bowling

Co-Ed

September – April

www.facebook.com/WednesdayRainbowLeague

The Wednesday Rainbow League is an organization of gay and straight

NORTH STAR ROLLER GIRLS

Roller Derby

Women

November – March

www.northstarrollergirls.com

Now in their 9th season, the North Star Roller Girls have built a legacy of roller derby in Minneapolis. NSRG formed in June of 2006 as an offshoot of the now-defunct TC Rollers. They loved skating together but desired the control of being skater-owned and -operated. Skaters play a version of the roller derby you may have seen on TV in the '80s, but on a flat track instead of a banked track. It's a full-contact athletic competition with rules and regulations. NSRG's main focus is athleticism and the empowerment of women both on and off the track. A member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, NSRG

advocates for the growth of roller derby in Minnesota and throughout the world. Liz Lorge (aka Jackillope) just finished skating her second season with NSRG. "Like many women who nervously walk into our empty warehouse and onto our league, I hit a particularly low time in my life and found myself coming out of it in a pair of roller skates. And I've never looked back," she says. Lorge played boy's lacrosse in high school. "I loved showing doubting pubescent bros what a strong woman can do," she says. "She tried no-contact rugby and women's lacrosse in college, but they didn't live up to what she was looking for. "With derby,

you get a room full of women who know they are smart, independent, and strong; getting stronger by the minute," she says. "And no one is afraid to show their muscle or take a hit. We face aggression and embrace physicality while bearing our competitive teeth. It's empowering. It's uplifting. And I know I haven't just gained a solid GLBT community along the way, but I have an incredible amount of allies. I've never felt so sure-footed or valid in my life. And the fact that I can find that through skating in the Metro...well, what better experience could a gal ask for?"



North Star Roller Girls. Photo by Wijadi Jodi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ➔



Minnesota RollerGirls. Photo by Ryan Siverson

MINNESOTA ROLLERGIRLS

Roller Derby

Women

October – April

www.mnrollergirls.com

Founded in 2004, the Minnesota RollerGirls are founding members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), the preeminent governing body for female, skater-owned, flat-track roller derby leagues. All participants are unpaid amateurs and the league provides insurance coverage for practices and bouts. The Minnesota RollerGirls were the first league in the country to have a professional arena for practices and bouts. Sheena McColum (aka Obscene Sheen) says it's great to play with other GLBT athletes. "Roller derby, in general, is a pretty inclusive community, meaning that no matter who you are or what you identify with/as, you are welcome," she says. "Only rule is don't be a D-bag. One of the things I love most is the acceptance we as members of the GLBT community get from [straight] teammates and the community. People love sports and women who play sports. Yes, I'm a member of the GLBT community but ultimately I'm an athlete. Our sexuality doesn't show on the track/court/field...our skills, passion, and love for the game shows."

HUMP DAY BOWLERS

Bowling

Co-Ed

November – March

www.humpdaybowlers.com

Steve Nardini joined the Hump Day Bowling League nine years ago as a way to meet others in the GLBT community and was hooked after the

first year. The second year, he got more involved as the league's secretary and spent the next few years building up the league with the motto, "The more, the merrier." He says, "I'm very proud to bring new people into our league, reaching out to the community, along with anyone that wants to bowl." The league has a GLBT majority, and split just about down the middle with male- and female-identified players. This year, the league welcomes their first transgender bowler, and the league has always welcomed those from the straight community. "I do believe having outlets in the community, other than places

like bars, play an important role," Nardini says. "It gives a chance to meet others with similar ideas. It also gives us an opportunity to help those in need." This past year, the league held a tournament that raised \$400 for Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly and their outreach program. Similar tournaments over the past four years have raised over \$5000 for organizations. "Our league is a family. We look forward to bowling each week. We look forward to seeing our friends each week. We cheer each others good throws and scores. And although our league is over for the season, I know everyone looks forward to the next."

MINNESOTA MEN'S ROLLER DERBY

Roller Derby

Men

November – April

www.tcterrors.com

Founded in 2007, Minnesota Men's Roller Derby holds claim to being one of the largest and most competitive male derby organizations in the United States. With a roster comprised of former hockey players, aggressive inline skaters, and competitive jam skaters, MMRD is widely regarded as the definition of a new style of roller derby. Each year the league hosts a home season, a series of bouts designed for the local audience. In the MMRD off-season, the All Star team known as the Twin Cities Terrors (or TC Terrors) hosts and travels to other Men's Roller Derby Association leagues to compete for national standing. ■

For expanded profiles, go to www.lavendermagazine.com/sports.

WORK FOR US!



**EXPERIENCED
ADVERTISING
ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE
WANTED**

Work as an
Advertising
Account
Executive for
Lavender Media.

Great
Commission!
Fun working
environment!

LAVENDER

Send your cover letter
and resume to:
barry@lavendermagazine.com

MAKE A HEALTHY CAREER MOVE

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, we are committed to making a healthy difference in people's lives. That includes our employees. Take advantage of wellness programs and resources designed to help you meet your health goals.

- Free on-site fitness centers
- At-work Weight Watchers meetings
- Stop-smoking programs
- Up to \$250 cash each year for healthy behaviors
- Free on-site flu shots
- Healthy food options at on-site cafeterias
- Fitness classes and small group personal training
- Complete family, spouse and domestic partner benefits
- Easy access to care through Online Care Anywhere

FIND YOUR PLACE AT A COMPANY THAT CARES ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

Apply today at careers.bluecrossmn.com.



**BlueCross
BlueShield**
Minnesota



Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota and Blue Plus® are nonprofit independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



**Hennepin County
Medical Center**

hcmc.org

**Healthcare
for a lifetime**

FROM
babies TO
boomers

Appointments: 612-873-6963





Even if you're just riding to a local restaurant together, having a route in mind – preferably one with light traffic – will make the experience more enjoyable.

5 REASONS TO GO FOR A BIKE DATE



When you really care about someone's heart, take them for a bike ride! Not the first thing that came to mind for your next romantic outing? It will be. My City Bikes powered by Interbike is the national public health campaign for beginner cyclists. They've teamed up with local bike shops The Alt, Freewheel Bike, Maple Grove Cycling, and Penn Cycle & Fitness to create the official guide to local beginner biking: the Minneapolis Bikes app. The free mobile app available for Apple and Android phones is a basic, essential guide to beginner-level biking in and around Minneapolis. Biking with your belle or beau will strengthen your hearts and strengthen your love! In celebration of national bike month, here are the top five reasons to go for a bike date this May.

1. YOU'LL BE A BETTER PARTNER

The best way to take care of your loved ones is to make sure you're taking care of yourself. Biking is one of the best ways to stay in shape, and it is great for people at any level of fitness or physical ability. Biking just 20 miles a week — that's just 2 hours at an easy pace — can cut your heart disease risk in half. Biking has also been proven to lower stress levels, improve mental fitness, and help maintain a healthy bodyweight. With all those perks being the best partner you can be might just start on two wheels.

2. IT GETS YOUR BLOOD PUMPING

A study by Aron, Norman, Aron, & Heyman in 2000 found that after jointly participating in an exciting physical challenge or activity, couples reported feeling more satisfied with their relationships and more in love with their partner. Whether you're out for a leisurely ride to take in the scenery on the West River Parkway, or up for a heart-thumping challenge like mountain biking in Lebanon Hills Regional Park, you'll bond over bikes.

3. LOVE GREEN

Do you and your partner share a passion for the environment? Not only is biking a mode of transportation that's nearly carbon-neutral, bicyclists actually have less exposure to air pollutants when commuting by bike than people in cars or buses. Biking is better for you and better for the environment, and you'll feel great taking care of the earth together.

4. SMILE, YOU'VE GOT ENDORPHINS!

It's common knowledge that physical activity triggers the body to release feel-good hormones called endorphins. Enjoying a laid-back bike ride together and taking in the sights, sounds, and fresh air will give you a sensory experience to share and the physical and mental boost of endorphins will have you both feeling great inside and out.

BY JEN WARNER | PHOTOS COURTESY OF MY CITY BIKES

5. IT'S FULL-ON ROMANTIC

There is something just old-fashioned romantic about a bike ride. Plan your bike outing to an outdoor destination, like the Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail which is a nice ride that will bring you to Cedar Lake, Lake Calhoun, or Bass Lake where you can enjoy a stroll or a picnic. You just can't help but swoon. Thanks, bicycles!

Ready to go on your first bike date? Here are some helpful tips for your romantic ride. First, plan your route ahead. Check the Minneapolis Bikes app for local bike lanes and paths that you can use to get where you're going. Even if you're just riding to a local restaurant together, having a route in mind — preferably one with light traffic — will make the experience more enjoyable. If you're going on a fitness ride together, choose a longer or more challenging route. Otherwise keep it to within about five miles from your starting point for a manageable ride.

Second, plan for parking. Bike parking is typically much more convenient and less expensive than car parking, but make sure you have a proper bike lock with you. If you're not sure what type of bike lock is best or how to securely lock your bike, pay a visit to one of Minneapolis' friendliest bike shops — The Alt, Freewheel Bike, Maple Grove Cycling, and Penn Cycle & Fitness — and they'll lend a helping hand.

Last but not least, and this may seem obvious, but make sure you both have a bike and a helmet in good working order. There's nothing

like a mechanical problem to bring your romantic evening to an abrupt end. Check out your bikes to make sure the tires are inflated and they're riding smooth before you head out. If you really want to impress your date, brush up with DIY bike repair tutorials in the Minneapolis Bikes app and hone your skills at a basic bike maintenance class at Maple Grove Cycling or Freewheel Bike. When the unexpected happens you'll be prepared to save the day. Happy riding! ■

My City Bikes is the first and only public health campaign for beginner cyclists. The national web- and mobile- campaign benefits communities across the United States by providing simple, localized mobile resources and media advocacy to facilitate cycling. "No one is exempt from the basics of biking," and that is why My City Bikes nurtures, supports and inspires the culture of beginners in biking. Whether for fun, fitness or transportation, My City Bikes is the official guide to beginner biking opportunities in communities nation-wide. Along with its network of beginner-friendly bike shops, municipal governments, and national partners, My City Bikes is connecting hometowns across the United States with their basic but essential beginner biking resources to empower individuals to improve their health by simply pedaling a bike. Join the biggest bike team in the world! Download your free local My City Bikes app at www.mycitybikes.org to find local entry-level rides, need-to-know DIY bike maintenance, and beginner-friendly bike shop experts in your neighborhood.



GUIDED BICYCLE AND WALKING TOURS – EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY!
GREAT FOR WEDDING PARTIES & OUT OF TOWN FAMILY!
SPRING DISCOUNT - \$5 off a biking or walking tour, good through 6/30/15, code LV2015
(507) 533-5348 • WWW.THEFITTOURIST.COM

Steve Burns, Ph.D. 

Licensed Psychologist • 612-990-0649

Hours by appointment Tuesday - Friday

Northland
Therapy Center

Convenient Midway Location
2324 University Ave. W., Suite 100

Doing what you do is your job.....
Keeping you in Balance is ours.



Proudly Welcoming the Trans* Community

The Balancing Act
acupuncture • massage

Jaime Hicks M.Om, L.Ac, LMT, NCTMB
1409 Willow Street, Ste 415 • Minneapolis, MN 55403
612.584.9967
www.TheBalancingActMN.com



**CHANGING LIVES
ONE BIKE AT A TIME
SINCE 1974**

#SADDLEUPMN

FREEWHEELBIKE.COM



Health & Fitness

VERTICAL ENDEAVORS: CLIMBING TO FITNESS



“Everyone is trying to be the best climber that they can be, but not at the expense of someone else.”

You look up. The wall in front of you is covered in colorful pegs, which you understand to be hand and foot holds. Suddenly you notice the harness you're hooked up to, for safety, naturally. That's a relief. The only thing standing between you and the top of the wall is the amount of determination and practice it will take to get there. An instructor encourages you to start climbing.

Vertical Endeavors – Minneapolis (VEM) offers numerous top rope climbs, Auto Belays, three bouldering areas, hand-carved cracks and sport lead climbing. In addition, guests can enjoy indoor and outdoor lessons, youth programs, group events, birthday parties, and much more. A complete pro-shop offering a large selection of climbing gear adds to the convenience of this one stop shop.

“It's hard to describe the feel of VEM,” says David Schwab, VEM's Director of Safety, Training and Guiding. “The attitude of the staff and members is awesome.”

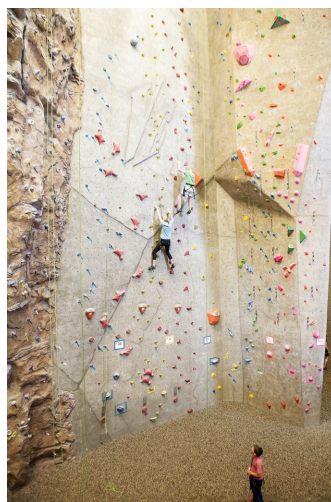
For those not familiar with the “climbing community,” Schwab describes it as one of inclusiveness and cooperation. He says, “Everyone is trying to be the best climber that they can be, but not at the expense of someone else.”

VEM's members and guests always have time for a helpful coaching tip or suggestion and are always willing to give advice or talk climbing — anything that supports the mission of bettering yourself. Schwab can't remember a discussion at VEM of politics or nearly anything di-



visive other than which climbing area or which pair of climbing shoes is better. Rarely is there a harsh word or an argument except perhaps about the music playing at the moment (Schwab has learned to dislike dubstep, although he really enjoyed it a few years ago).

As a professional climbing guide and instructor, Schwab has had the opportunity to travel throughout the nation and visit numerous climbing facilities. “The structure and building that VEM is housed in makes it one of the most interesting and unusual climbing facilities I have visited,” he says. It is housed in the historic ‘Icehouse’ building which, as the name suggests, was used early last century to store ice cut from the Minneapolis lakes during the winter months to sell during the summer months. In addition to the historic nature of the facility, it is also located



directly on “Eat Street.”

If you're into climbing gyms, there are a few that can't be missed. Two of the “must visit” facilities according to Schwab are in the Vertical Endeavors family: the Minneapolis and Chicago locations, specifically. Atlanta, Reno, and San Francisco also have incredible indoor climbing facilities and although they are VEM's competitors, Schwab is quick to recommend that they be visited if the opportunity presents itself as well.

For anyone seeking a break from climbing, the VEM facility has a selection of aerobic machines, stair steppers, stationary bicycles, and running machines for members as well as shower facilities. According to Schwab, many members do not belong to any other gym and use VEM facilities exclusively for their workouts.

Simply put, climbing offers something that other workout

routines lack. Many VEM members find that climbing alleviates the boredom of some traditional workouts. As the climbing “routes” are constantly changing, the variation of moves and climbing sequences used is also constantly changing. As such, VEM members always have new climbs to explore and many new ways to challenge themselves and relieve stress.

“I have been climbing for 29 years and have been involved as a member of VE for the majority of that time frame,” says Schwab. “I am a former U.S. Parole Officer with the Federal District Court in Minnesota. It was a high-stress job and I used indoor climbing to prepare for the outdoor climbing trips I went on as a stress-reliever while working. I retired from that gig in 2010 and have never looked back.”

VEM welcomes all members of the community in a non-judgmental and very open environment, even hosting *Lavender's* GLBT open climb night on May 16. “I personally have worked with nearly anyone you can think of from every walk of life,” Schwab says. “I don't see any reason to exclude anyone for any reason and feel like were it not for climbing I wouldn't be the person I am. We are all born climbers and all started to climb before we could walk. Everyone deserves a place to climb.” ■

VERTICAL ENDEAVORS – MINNEAPOLIS

2540 Nicollet Ave. S.
www.verticalendeavors.com/minneapolis

Health & Fitness

REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS OF PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO THE HIV COMMUNITY

I've always considered March 17, 1995, to be one of the luckiest days of my life. It was my first day working as Legal Program Coordinator at the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP). After 12 years in private and corporate practice, I came to MAP wanting to give something back to my community. By this time, I knew many gay men living with HIV or who had died from HIV. One of my most beloved friends, the Reverend Jon Nelson, was nearing the end of his battle against HIV. One of the last things he did was provide a reference for me for this position. I wanted two things: to make a difference and to ease the journey for those with HIV. I did not know I would work with and get to know so many beautiful people, learn amazing things, and see what a difference even the most basic legal services can make for people battling stigma and disease.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

From the beginning, a great cadre of volunteers delivered legal services at MAP. Our community rallied around people living with HIV to make sure their needs were met. In fact, my first day was spent interviewing candidates for a summer law clerk through the Minnesota Justice Foundation. Lori Ferris became my first of hundreds of law students to work at MAP providing legal services to our community. LGBT and allied lawyers and students have consistently provided more than a quarter of the legal services MAP delivers. These volunteers are critical. I learned early on the importance of providing sensitive and understanding legal services. As one man told me, "I want a lawyer who understands where I'm coming from. I don't want to

have to explain about HIV, how I got it, and about my partner. I don't want to hide what's real in my life." This need has remained constant. People need culturally competent lawyers who appreciate the subtle nuances that can impact analysis and recommendations. Fortunately, MAP has a trove of volunteers who get it. I feel extraordinarily lucky to have a vast number of colleagues I can call upon to help our clients.

PROTECTING FAMILIES

When I started at MAP, life expectancy from diagnosis to death was, at most, two years. Much of my time was spent doing end of life visits at hospitals, nursing homes, and in homes. People were caught by surprise and unprepared. I remember being at the bedside with a man named Richard who desperately wanted his partner to receive his insurance benefits. Even with me helping guide his hand, it took all his strength to sign the beneficiary form. I keep the thank you note from his partner in my office as a reminder of the importance of getting things done for people and as a testament of love. The love and tenderness between these two men was moving, as was that between high school sweethearts John and Steve who ended their lives in the same nursing home – together until the end.

Because our clients were often rejected by biological families, planning documents were crucial for medical decisions, property transfer, and wishes for funeral and burial. We saw several cases where the client's wishes were in conflict with their family's religious beliefs. Volunteer attorneys including Tim Piepkorn, Jeffrey Scott, and Curt Stine had to intervene to negotiate acceptable outcomes



Lynn Mickelson, being presented with the 2015 Equity and Justice Award from the Minnesota Lavender Bar Association. The award was presented by one of her many former interns, Erin Keyes, now serving as the Assistant Dean of Students, University of Minnesota Law School.

for surviving partners. Sometimes we didn't get there in time and sat through painful memorial services condemning the "lifestyle" of the departed. In 1998, I was privileged to be part of a task force that helped create the new Minnesota Health Care Directive law. A key elective power in that document is giving authority to the agent to direct funeral and burial wishes.

I immediately saw the breadth of HIV's impact. HIV is not just a gay disease. It is everywhere, especially in communities of color. Half of our clients were from communities of color. MAP was a safe place to come, away from the fear and judgment in the broader community. I learned quickly, especially from African American women and mothers who respectfully took me to school when it came to cultural competence. Despite difference in background, we found solidarity in the shared experience of HIV and our commitment to end it. I was particularly struck by the cross-generational impact of HIV when working

with several HIV-positive mothers and their adult HIV-positive children, each helping the other identify their wishes and creating tools to make sure those wishes were followed.

There were many mothers who needed to plan for their young children. Because we were continually frustrated by parental wishes not being followed, volunteer attorney Suzanne Born and staff attorney Caroline Palmer helped draft our Standby Custody law in 2000. This law has become an invaluable tool in helping make sure a parent's decision of who is the best custodian for their child is followed.

On the legal side, these cases taught me the importance of getting things in order. On the emotional side, many clients taught me the value of letting go of baggage and cherishing the moments we have together. Clients treasured the lawyers and other service providers who could appreciate their journeys and accept them as more than a person with a disease.

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST

Courteous, experienced professionals from start to finish.

Detailed & accurate estimates for your project budget.

Detailed project plans, specifications, & schedules.

Daily & weekly communication of schedules & budget during your project.

Quality workmanship that adds lasting beauty and value to your home.



Before



After



**House Lift
REMODELER**

Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

www.houseliftinc.com

4330 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409

612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442

MN LIC #BC378021



VERTICAL ENDEAVORS

Indoor Rock Climbing



LAVENDER MAGAZINE'S OPEN CLIMB NIGHT
@ Vertical Endeavors - Minneapolis

Saturday, May 16th from 6:00–8:00 PM / \$20

Minneapolis 2540 Nicollet Avenue South / 612.436.1470

St. Paul 855 Phalen Boulevard / 651.776.1430

WWW.VERTICALENDEAVORS.COM

LAVENDER

Follow us @lavmag



Eating disorders don't discriminate.

Life is complicated enough without adding food and body issues into the mix. Our experienced and compassionate staff knows eating disorders, often from personal experience, and can help with proven programs tailored to all genders. There is hope for lasting recovery.



The Emily Program

Real help for eating disorders

Twin Cities locations with hours and options that fit your schedule.

(888) EMILY-77 • emilyprogram.com

Health & Fitness

MOVING TOWARD CHRONIC DISEASE

In 1996, everything changed when new medications called protease inhibitors came upon the scene. Suddenly, people living with HIV were coming back to health. Life expectancy grew dramatically. Individuals wanted to return to work. Others faced more of a chronic disease. One of the first things I noticed was an issue with debt. Losing work capacity resulted in a precipitous drop in income. Suddenly, people needed to figure out how to manage for the long-term on a limited income. Moreover, an HIV diagnosis no longer meant nearly automatic social security disability benefits. Our legal services shifted to disability planning — helping individuals get and keep health insurance, warding off creditors, and providing social security representation. Volunteers like Becky Moshier and Rebecca Schiller provided much needed financial counsel. Our goal was — and continues to be — to help stabilize lives through legal representation and enable optimal health outcomes. Although life

expectancy for people newly infected and diagnosed with HIV is now almost normal, we have learned that HIV and its treatments cause premature aging. Treated HIV may not be killing people, but co-morbidities such as heart disease, diabetes, and bone disease are being seen in younger people who in turn are becoming disabled. Preventative legal services and timely intervention can make chronic disease management easier.

PERNICIOUS STIGMA

Throughout my 20 years, people living with HIV have been plagued by stigma and discrimination. Just before I started, MAP played a critical role getting HIV recognized as a disability protected under the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Early in my tenure, I worked with Lambda Legal Defense for a married client who applied for individual life insurance. The insurance company denied coverage because her husband was HIV positive. The Minnesota Department of Commerce quickly recognized the discrimination, and the company reversed its decision. We have seen numer-

ous employment discrimination cases through the years with actions ranging from outright denial of employment or refusal to reasonably accommodate a worker to privacy violations and egregious harassment in the workplace. Working with government agencies, our program and volunteer attorneys such as Joni Thome, Celeste Culberth, Leslie Lieneman, and Bill O'Brien have greatly advanced legal protections for our community.

Until the policy changed in 2010, HIV-positive immigrants were barred from entering the United States due to their HIV status. MAP became the hub for HIV waivers that allowed people entry. Volunteers at Myers Thompson developed the waiver template that was used by immigration lawyers throughout the state. New immigrants came from places with terrible stigma and discrimination. These attitudes often persist in communities here resulting in disproportionate numbers of late diagnoses and new infections.

In recent years MAP has fought to clarify our state laws and protect people from HIV

criminalization. MAP provided community education and representation when our knowing transmission statute became a concern. In 2014, volunteers Lindsay McLaughlin, Jerry Burg, and myself submitted an Amicus Curiae brief in the controversial *State v. Rick* case.

IT AIN'T OVER

I'd like to say that with legal and health advances, stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV has lessened. It has not. Fear, misinformation, and indifference continue to result in stigmatizing and discriminatory acts for those living with HIV. Our long fight against HIV has shown us that we must stand in solidarity with one another and not leave anyone behind. I contend that until there is no fear, no stigma, and no disparities, lawyers will need to answer the call for justice in both gentle and dramatic ways. These 20 years have been a privilege, but my work is not done. The work of the Minnesota AIDS Project is not done. ■

For more information about the Minnesota AIDS Project, visit www.mnaimsproject.org.



DOWNTOWN DOGS

Downtown Minneapolis' Best Dog Daycare & Dog Boarding!
821 2nd Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405 • www.dtdogs.com

Call 612-374-3647
[612-374-DOGS]



MORRIE'S BROOKLYN PARK SUBARU

7885 BROOKLYN BLVD
BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55445

SUBARU
Confidence in Motion

THE PERFECT PAIR

2015 SUBARU LEGACY

2015 SUBARU OUTBACK

JOINED TOGETHER WITH SUBARU'S SYMMETRICAL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE SYSTEM

OUR BEST PRICE FIRST, COMPLIMENTARY CAR WASHES, COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, PLUS MUCH MORE!

LIFETIME POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
INCLUDED WITH EVERY NEW LEGACY!

763-424-4400 brooklynparksubaru.com

Providing unique solutions for unique individuals.
Helping families reach their serious long-term goals.



John Degelmann, CIMA®
Financial Advisor
(952)-854-5224

Facebook: John.Degelmann

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The future has arrived,
in two beautiful versions.

The new C-Class and GLA are here.



Every year promises a number of showstopping introductions from Mercedes-Benz, and this year will be no exception. The elegant and sporty C-Class sedan, with more advanced technology and connectivity than ever. And the muscular GLA, a versatile and sophisticated SUV, smaller in scale but big on looks. Two bold expressions of the aggressive new Mercedes-Benz design language have arrived. Don't miss them. Visit MBUSA.com



Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.

Sears
Imported Autos

952-546-5301 • www.SearsImports.com • 394 across from Target Ridgedale

Three Hot Spots
Under One Roof

Award-
winning
Dining



**PLYMOUTH
PLAYHOUSE**



Stay & Play
Packages



LAVENDER'S
Nights
at the Theater

Friday, May 8
7:30pm

**Late Nite
Catechism™**
by Vicki Quade & Maripat Donovan

**Lavender Nite
Special**

**\$10 off
tickets**

Discount not available online. In-person and phone orders only.
Must mention at time of order. Limit 6 tickets per order.

Happy Hour Appetizers & Drinks
at the *Green Mill* 9pm-close

Box Office 763-553-1600x1
plymouthplayhouse.com

2015 Kia K900



We often equate luxury with a name.

It is in the clothes we wear, the furniture we buy, the electronics we own...even the realtor with whom we sell or buy our homes. Names often evoke certain images, especially when it comes to luxury goods.

In the automotive world, this is even more pronounced. When you say “Bentley” or “Rolls-Royce,” those names speak to the epitome of luxury automobiles. You also expect a certain level of luxury when the words “Mercedes-Benz,” “Lexus,” and “Cadillac” are mentioned. These names fuel the want of the finer things in life. They speak truth to image.

What if I told you about a luxury car from Kia? At first, you may wince at the idea of such a luxury car from a brand synonymous with vehicles such as the Soul, the Sorento, and the Optima. We are not just talking about any premium vehicle. The car in question is aimed at the big players in the luxury car field.

The 2015 Kia K900 is a rear-wheel drive large sedan that wants to be considered alongside the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, Lexus LS, BMW 7-Series, Audi A8...and so on. In other words, it wants to be the flagship sedan of choice among the well-heeled crowd.

Really, what’s in a name?

It starts with the look. The K900’s design begins with a blunt front end shape. The “Tiger” grille is enlarged to induce an air of elegance that gives flagships their personality. The front wheels are pushed to the edge of the car, while elongating the hood to add to its presence. “Portholes” grace the front fenders and are another clue to its upward mobility. The roofline is long, giving more access to the rear cabin through its wide limousine-like doors. The overall look is made even more luxurious with a set of chrome multi-spoke 19-inch alloy wheels shod with Hankook tires.

The rear end provides another debate. While we see Kia’s signature nose, we wonder where

the rear end came from. One might think it could be influenced by one of its rivals – the Lexus LS. Maybe. There is enough Kia badging to distract the rear lamps and its LED lighting.

Perhaps the best part of the K900 is back up front. The headlamp setup is a showcase of LED technology. Each of the four “lights” includes four smaller LED lamps inside each pod. Not only do they look distinctive; they emit great illumination outward for better night vision. In other words, these lights work extremely well.

Stepping inside is an invitation to luxury and sophistication. The wide instrument panel is swathed with soft leather touches, piano black finishes, and plenty of switches and technology at your fingertips. The 12.3-inch TFT screen for the instrumentation changes depending on which Drive Mode you are in. In both Normal and Eco, your gauges are in analog. Switch to Sport, and they become digital. It is not a contrived digital readout, but one that helps race your heart a bit faster — and that is a good thing. Kia also gives the K900 a distinctive steering wheel. It is a huge three-spoke wheel that accentuates the flagship feel of the car. Switches around the car are good to the touch and very intuitive. The toggles on the steering wheel might be a bit tricky, however. They are also intuitive, once you master them.

The 9.2-inch center screen for Kia’s Micro-soft-powered UVO infotainment system is large; however, it is not touch-sensitive. Controlling these functions is done through a knob on the center console, along with quick buttons to the most common screens. Lexicon provides 17 speakers of surround sound from the infotainment screen up front and the controls in the rear center armrest. It emits a wonderful sound for everyone to enjoy.

Front seats are huge and comfortable. While a lot of flagships want you to get comfortable, the K900 means it. There is a good balance between support and cushion with multiple adjust-

ments from the door panel, not unlike most of its rivals. Expect power lumbar and seat cushion length in the VIP model to ensure that everyone can feel comfortable piloting the K900.

Settle into the back seat and you might as well be in a limousine. Consider that its cousin, the Hyundai Equus, covers that part for the Hyundai and Kia conglomerate with its 38.8-inch rear leg room measurement. The K900’s rear leg room measures out at 38.2 inches. Owners of the VIP model can enjoy reclining rear seats powered by switches from the door panel and a center armrest that will control the climate, the rear power shade, the infotainment, and the seat temperature for those who rather live in the back than drive themselves. The rear door comes with manual shades for further protection from the sun and onlookers.

Under the hood of the K900 is a 5.0-liter V8. This is not just any V8 — it is the first appearance of Hyundai’s Tau motor in a Kia. You have 420 horsepower and 376 pound-feet of torque on tap. Press the throttle and all of that power comes alive, providing effortless thrust that is quick off the mark. It also cruises at highway speeds very easily.

Power is channeled through a new eight-speed automatic that is smooth, quiet, and quick. You cannot feel the shifts, but you can see them take place on the tachometer. If you want even quicker shifts, switch the Drive Mode to Sport. There will be nominal differences between the shifts in either Normal and Sport mode. In Eco, shifts are a bit slower, but with no real difference than in Normal. Only the rear wheels drive the K900. It is a good driveline that provides absolute pleasure for leisure and enthusiastic drivers alike.

When driving the K900, you will find it smooth, comfortable, luxurious...all of the words that describe a flagship. You do not feel the cracks and expansion gaps in a K900 due to soft and compliant dampers in the suspension system. Handling is on the soft side through

RIDE REVIEW

the curves; however, the K900 feels poised to handle winding country roads or tight switchbacks without complaint.

Steering the K900 takes managing a rather large wheel with a quick reaction. Though it feels somewhat disconnected, the steering system does allow the front wheels to do tight maneuvers despite being such a large car. Braking is smooth and sure, helped by huge rotors and a strong caliper system. Normal stops were short, while panic stops responded excellently.

The K900 offers all of the active safety features you expect in a flagship. These standard features include blind spot monitoring, lane departure warning, rear cross-traffic alert, parking sensors, and an Advanced Smart Cruise Control. Making things easier is a heads-up display, also a part of the VIP package. This is where you get all of the active safety warnings right on your windshield in a logical setup. Instead of looking at the mirrors for blind spot warnings they show up on the heads-up display.


While the K900 advertises that it will get 18MPG on average with the big V8, we got better than that. The fuel consumption average under our care came to 18.7MPG with a high of 25.5MPG on the highway.

If there is one concern above all on the K900, it is the price. The main feedback from people who have seen the K900 has been a tough swallow for the sticker price of the car — one with a Kia badge. It just seems that there is still a shock over Kia's decision to sell its flagship sedan in this market. The facts are simple: The K900 Luxury model starts at \$59,900. This VIP tester is stickered at \$66,400.

It would be easy to dismiss the name; however, Kia has made a very good luxury car in the K900. For all the right seasons, this Kia touched all of the requirements for a luxury flagship: interior space, trunk space, power, technology, active safety features, and amenities.

There is one thing that the K900 has above all. It is that intangible quality that gives it a special feeling expected from a car of its stature. It is about sliding behind the wheel in a comfortable chair about to pilot a powerful V8 across the miles. It is having someone climb in the back seat to find a very comfortable place to relax in, including setting the climate control for their own comfort.

Again, it is that name and that badge that seems to stop people from embracing this superb automobile. Perhaps it is time to embrace the car for its merits and simply enjoy what it offers you. That is how special the Kia K900 is — name or no name. ■



LaMettry's®
Collision, Glass and More!

**THE MOST
DEALER RECOMMENDED
BODY SHOP IN THE CITIES.**

**WITH OVER 15 MANUFACTURER
CERTIFICATIONS**

Bloomington | Burnsville | Eden Prairie | Inver Grove Heights
Lakeville | Maplewood | New Brighton | Richfield

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT **1-888-898-0016** OR GET AN ONLINE ESTIMATE AT **LAMETTRY.COM**

**KLINE
NISSAN**



**KLINE
Cares**



**Kline Cares
About People...**

About our *Guests...*
About our *Kline Family...*
About our *Community...*
About our *Environment.*



SOME LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS JUST LAST.

ENHANCING YOUR CAR BUYING EXPERIENCE.

For special pricing, contact me directly.

Jessica Katz
General Manager

OUR ADDRESS:
3090 Highway 61 North
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-379-4300

SALES HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

SERVICE & PARTS HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm



WWW.KLINENISSAN.COM

The Elephant In The Room

Last night, I attended a lecture on how to clone a mammoth. It was given by a beautiful-but-icy lady scientist with a suspicious accent. She sounded like a James Bond villain, lushly overemphasizing her vowels with cool calculation. I was left with the distinct impression that she planned to use her mammoth cloning program as a Trojan horse designed to sneak through a far more sinister agenda.

"That scientist is up to no good!" I proclaimed to my friend, Stacy, who I had tricked into attending the lecture, telling her they would be serving ice cream.

"Anyone who promises ice cream and then doesn't deliver is up to no good," muttered Stacy, who hadn't yet figured out that I was behind the ice cream ruse.

"I've got nothing against mammoths," I said, "but what's next, pterodactyls? As if I don't already have enough problems with modern-day birds."

I've always had an uneasy relationship with birds, particularly pet birds. They clearly resent my freedom and joie de vivre. Each time I encounter a pet bird it aggressively bounces on its perch, telegraphing that if we weren't separated by a cage it would be bouncing its talons into

my face. I've tried to make peace with wild birds in my yard by feeding them regularly, but they always seem deeply displeased with whatever food I offer. There's one bird, in particular, that hates my guts. He's a fat blue jay that sits outside my bedroom window, staring silently at me for hours. It's very unsettling.

The title of the mammoth lecture was misleading. I thought we were going to be instructed on how to actually clone a mammoth. This, I thought, would be the perfect rainy day activity to perform with my young nieces. The last time I was stuck inside with them we attempted to bake a princess cake. It involved following a very complicated recipe given to me by a vindictive gay man who was intent on making me lose all respect from my nieces. Well, mission accomplished, you sadistic bastard! Our completed project resembled nothing like the perfectly symmetrical and beautifully decorated rainbow confection that accompanied the recipe. Rather it looked like something a unicorn might have vomited on a street corner following a wild night on the town. Cloning seemed like a simple task by comparison.

But instead of explaining how we could clone our own mammoth, the lady scientist fo-

cused on her master plan to extract DNA from a long-dead beast found in icebergs and then do a bunch of science-y things that would result in a baby mammoth. These babies would then be raised by elephants.

"Has anyone asked elephants how they feel about this plan?" asked Stacy.

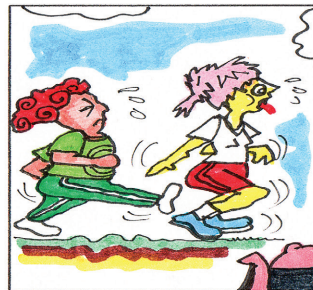
"What would you clone if you could?" I asked Stacy, pointedly ignoring her elephant comment because the answer was so obvious. Elephants would raise the mammoth babies without complaint, because they are beautiful, loving, and selfless creatures, and if you ever buy ivory I will personally come to your home and cut off half your face and see how you like it.

"I would clone a Good Humor truck," Stacy said wistfully.

"I'd clone that sexy lady scientist" I growled suggestively, but I didn't really mean it.

Truth be told, I've recently excavated a bit of my own prehistoric past. And I'm debating whether it would be wise to try to bring it back from the dead. A fool's errand on so many levels. But if we can rebirth an ancient beast from a scrap of bone, why can't I resurrect a dream from the dust of my youth? Impossible? Probably. But if it works, baby mammoths for everyone! ■

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA



What people invent to get tired!
Ce que les gens inventent pour se fatiguer!

CLASSIFIEDS

COFFEE SHOPS

Fireroast, a gay-owned community coffee shop. Food & coffee created by a staff that cares! Meeting Space with a gender neutral restroom. 3800 37th Ave S, Minneapolis. (612) 724-9895, www.fireroastcafe.com.

EVENT PLANNING

Fotobox photo booths are perfect for any event. Our professional attendant will guarantee your guests have a great time. Large booth, props, & everyone gets a print. www.fotoboxlive.com/twincities, (612) 246-3711.

HOME FURNISHINGS

COTTAGE HOUSE • An Occasional Market • Next sale: *GARDEN FEVER* - MAY 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Wed 1-7, Thur-Fri 10-7, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm • 4304 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. www.thecottagehousempls.com.

JEWELERS

Read our reviews! At Uniquely Yours Custom Designed Jewelry, we create unique engagement & wedding rings, & more! Expert jewelry restorations & repairs. Passion fuels everything we create. **READ OUR REVIEWS!** www.uniquelyyourscustomjewelry.com, (612) 746-0508.

SOLAR ENERGY

Life. Powered by the sun. Reduce your electric bill with Energy Concepts. Great incentives available now for limited time for solar electric and thermal! Call for free evaluation. www.EnergyConcepts.us, (715) 381-9977.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Join in the fun where you leave your troubles and clothes behind. Visit Two Creeks Clothing Optional Campground, just north of the Twin Cities. Visit 2Creeks.com or call (763) 250-1122.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

STRONG & RELAXING hands, resulting in bodywork at its best! Bruck, MT, DC in South Minneapolis @ (612) 306-6323.

Stephen Parish C.M.T. - (612) 875-6677. Therapeutic Massage, www.stephenparishmassage.com. \$50 for 60 min. or \$75 for 90 min. Now accepting Visa and MasterCard.

WEDDING PLANNERS

The Crown Room Banquet Center- holiday parties, corporate events, wedding receptions, and more! An incomparable experience complete with outstanding food and professional staff to cater your event needs. TheCrownRoomRogers.com, (763) 428-8181.

ADVERTISER INDEX

Adult

Megaphone..... 45

Arts & Entertainment

Chanassen Dinner Theatres... 15
Jungle Theater..... 21
Plymouth Playhouse..... 41

Automotive

Kline Nissan..... 43
LaMettry's Collision..... 43
Monie's Brooklyn Park Subaru... 40
Sears Imported Autos..... 41
White Bear Mitsubishi..... 2

Bars & Nightlife

19 Bar..... 23
eagleBOLTbar..... 22
Gay 90's..... 22

Casinos

Mystic Lake Casino - SMSC
Gaming Enterprise..... 17

Event Venues & Services

D'Amico & Partners..... 19

Financial

Edward Jones..... 41
ROR Tax Professionals..... 5
Wells Fargo Bank..... 8

Health & Wellness

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota..... 33

Burns, Steve..... 35
CDC..... 13
Emily Program..... 39
HCMC..... 33
MN AIDS Project-AIDS Line... 25
Orthology..... 9
The Balancing Act..... 35
University of Minnesota,
Infectious Diseases..... 29

Home Furnishings & Accessories

Framework..... 8

Home Services

House Lift Remodeler..... 39
SCC Kitchen Bath & Home /
Zen Windows..... 19

Insurance

Bartell, Dawn..... 6
Tom Baecker - Allstate..... 23

Jewelry

Max's..... 6
Scheherazade Jewelers..... 3
Shane Co..... 52
Wedding Day Diamonds..... 5

Legal

Cloutier Law Offices..... 15
Heltzer & Houghtaling..... 23
Jerry Burg, Attorney at Law 25
Johnson, Randall..... 6
Moshier, Becky..... 7
Robichaud & Alcantara, P.A. 5

Media & Communications

AM950 Radio..... 23
MPR & The Current..... 45
Radio K 770..... 5

Pet Products & Services

Downtown Dogs..... 40

Real Estate & Rentals

One Ten Grant Apartments... 7

Restaurants

Burger Moe's..... 21
Jakeeno's Pizza & Pasta..... 19
Melting Pot, The..... 21
Red Cow..... 21
50th Street Cafe, Uptown
Diner, Woodbury Cafe,
Louisiana Cafe, Grandview
Grill, Woodbury Cafe..... 19

Sports & Recreation

The Fit Tourist..... 35
Freewheel Bike..... 35
Vertical Endeavors..... 39

Travel & Accommodations

Water Street Inn..... 6

**WARNING
HOT GUYS!**

Minneapolis
**952.938.8700
763.226.2929
612.465.7255**

St. Paul
651.305.2737

**FREE to listen
and reply to ads!**

FREE CODE: Lavender

For other local numbers call: **1-888-MegaMates™**

24/7 Friendly Customer Care 1(888) 634.2628 18+ ©2013 PC LLC MegaMatesMen.com 2446

**89.3
the current®**
THECURRENT.ORG

**MORE THAN
MUSIC**

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING



Karen R Palm CPA CFP
TAX preparation
FEE ONLY financial planning
NO product sales
612-379-1393
www.palmkcpa.com

GUN SHOPS



• Fully stocked firearms dealer
• Indoor shooting facilities
• Training courses
Robbinsdale, MN • 763-533-9594
Circle Pines, MN • 763-792-4867
Hudson, WI • 715-690-1198
www.billsGS.com

HOME SERVICES



LIGHT'N UP!
— LIGHTING —
952-934-6730
Visit our Showroom in Eden Prairie or
Shop over 100,000 light fixtures at
lightn-up.com/promotions

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE



Family Owned & Operated
For Over 60 Years!

HAGEN'S AUTO BODY

FREE Estimates • All Insurance Accepted
Lifetime Repair Warranty
28th & Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls • 612-872-6671
WWW.HAGENSAUTOBODY.COM



PAUL WILLIAMS
TIRE AND AUTO SERVICE

An award winning automotive shop in Uptown
510 W. Lake St., Minneapolis • 612-823-8255
www.paulwilliamstire.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Struggling with Substance Abuse?
Take the 1st step & call
PRIDE Institute, the nation's 1st,
exclusive, LGBT treatment center

Call PRIDE today.
952-934-7554

HOME SERVICES

MATT'S TREE SERVICE
CABLING, PRUNING, & REMOVALS
LICENSED AND INSURED

Residential & Commercial Services
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming • Chipping • Stump Grinding
Storm Damage • Lot Cleaning • Hedge & Shrub Pruning
Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease
and Oak Wilt protection treatments
25+ yrs. Experience
Credit Cards accepted

Office: 612-706-8210




ProHomeRenovating.com
612-205-5618

- carpentry & remodeling
- painting & repairs
- other home maintenance
- no job is too small

Gay owned and operated since 1986.



✓ Roofing ✓ Siding ✓ Home Efficiencies
✓ Gutters ✓ Insulation ✓ Windows

Snap
construction inc. It's that easy™

INDUSTRY LEADING
10 YEAR
craftsmanship warranty

www.snapconstruction.com
CALL US 612-333-SNAP (7627)



EMPLOYMENT

**EXPERIENCED
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE WANTED**

Work as a print and/or online
Advertising Account Executive
for Lavender Media, leaders
in GLBT marketing and events.
Send your cover letter
and resume to:
barry@lavendermagazine.com
No phone calls please.

SHELTER
ARCHITECTURE.

residential | commercial

612.870.4081 shelterarchitecture.com

Good Stuff
MOVING
651-488-4808

Small Local Company
Very best service for
the very best price.



www.goodstuffmoving.com

SOS
HOMECARE

RESTORATION • RENOVATION
MAINTENANCE • REPAIR
CARPENTRY • KITCHENS • TILING • PLASTERING
BATHROOM • CONCRETE • DECKS • PATIOS
FREE ESTIMATES

Your Complete Professional HomeCare Company
SOSHOMECAREANDREMODELING.COM

TODD OR LEE
612-374-3222
MN LIC#BC-20270903



EST. 1914

Uptown
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING

We're your expert home heating,
cooling and plumbing company.
612-424-9349
uptownheatingandcooling.com



FLORIST

Garden of Eva, Inc.
Your Friendly Neighborhood Florist

Come See the Beautiful
Spring Flowers!

651-646-7244
www.gardenofeva.net
1585 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104



Serving you for 100 years! SINCE 1914

SODERLIN
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR
612-721-4080

Serving the entire Twin Cities Area
Emergency Service Available
WWW.SODERLIN.COM

Licensed, Bonded & Insured
LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB



INSURANCE

An exceptional community
deserves exceptional service.

Steve Wolfson
612-822-1190
1516 West Lake St., Ste. 203 • Minneapolis
swolfson@farmersagent.com

FARMERS



THE NETWORK

INSURANCE

State Farm
 Davina Baldwin
www.davinabaldwin.com
 763.535.4788
 6262 Boone Ave. N.
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
 davina@davinabaldwin.com
 Auto | Home | Life | Health | Business



Davina M. Baldwin

PSYCHOTHERAPY

612-203-2820 Katie Harrold, MA, LMFT
 Changing Pathways Therapy, LLC
 3137 Hennepin Ave. S. #102
changingpathways.net
 Minneapolis

Life Transitions/
 Gender/Relational Issues
 Counseling for
 Individuals, Youth,
 Families & Couples

heal
 change
 grow

REAL ESTATE

SCOTT HAUBRICH
 BROKER
 612-298-5400
SCOTT@BUYRENTSELLMN.COM
WWW.BUYRENTSELLMN.COM



RES Real Estate
 Call me for your FREE Market Analysis

COMMUNITY Starts At Home

Scott Belcher
 612-805-8880
scottbelcher.com

RE/MAX
 Results
 results.net
 The network that gets results.




Nancy Walker
 Live Well... Invest Wisely!


COLDWELL BANKER
BURNET
 Making Dreams Come Home™

www.thenancywalkerteam.com
nwalker@cbburnet.com
 612.827.9537



DONAVON KEENEY
 REALTOR
 "A BRIDGE BETWEEN BUYERS AND SELLERS"
 p: 612-232-5527
 e: DonavonKeeney@edinarealty.com



Edina Realty The edge you need.
 download my app: 



Advertise your business in
THE NETWORK
 Call 612-436-4698

OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

11TH ANNUAL SOY NEW YEAR: A QUEER HMOOB JOURNEY

MARCH 28, 2015



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADDICTION & TREATMENT

Hazelden

Providing comprehensive treatment, recovery solutions. Helping people reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction.
PO Box 11
15251 Pleasant Valley Rd,
Center City, MN
(800) 257-7800
www.hazelden.org

ADOPTION SERVICES

Pinehaven Youth and Family Services, Inc.

Foster Care and Adoption
Agency serving a rainbow color of families. Training and support provided.
P.O. Box 667
Brainerd, MN 56401 (statewide)
320-630-7340 or 218-821-1480
www.pinehaven-mn.org

ADVOCACY

Rainbow Health Initiative

Committed to advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 220
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 206-3180
www.rainbowhealth.org

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The

Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS - On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLine

The AIDSLine is the statewide referral service to connect with HIV information and resources.
1400 Park Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 373-AIDS (metro) or
(800) 248-AIDS (statewide)
mapaidline@mnaidsproject.org
www.mnaidsproject.org

Park House

Day health / mental health treatment program for adults living with HIV/AIDS.
710 E. 24th St., Ste. 303
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-1264
www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park_house_home

Red Door Services CAPS Program

Hennepin County Public Health Clinic. Get connected to HIV care, support, and services.
525 Portland Ave. S, 4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 348-3307
www.capsprogram.org

U of MN HIV Research Studies

Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

ANIMAL RESCUE

Animal Humane Society

Adoption, rescue, outreach, training, boarding. Buffalo, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, St. Paul and Woodbury.
(763) 522-4325
www.animalhumanesociety.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum

Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build and partner for a diverse business community.
(612) 399-6827
www.twincitiesquorum.com

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS

Meet Minneapolis

Convention & Visitor Association. Free wedding services available.
250 Marquette Ave. S., Ste. 1300
Minneapolis, MN
(888) 676-6757
www.minneapolis.org

EVENT VENUES

American Swedish Institute, The

Luxurious Turnblad Mansion, sleek Nelson Cultural Center - perfect settings for your next event, big or small.
2600 Park Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-3368
www.asimn.org

Minneapolis Municipal Building

Exchange your wedding vows surrounded by stained glass windows & carved Italian marble. Intimate. Historic. Classic.
350 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 596-9518
www.municipalbuildingcommission.org/Weddings

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis

Providing a splendid retreat for outstanding women and men since 1907.
410 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(651) 813-5300
www.womansclub.org

McNamara Alumni Center

An architecturally-stunning venue on the University of Minnesota campus. D'Amico Catering, parking ramp, adjacent hotel.
200 Oak St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 624-9831
www.mac-events.org

FOUNDATIONS

The Minneapolis Foundation

Celebrate with us a century of civic engagement, diverse community building, and prosperity for all.
www.mpls100.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fairview Clinics

More than 40 locations offering same-day appointments, extended hours and 24/7 scheduling.
2450 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
(855) 324-7843
www.fairview.org/clinic

Family Tree Clinic

LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health services to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

Reclaim!

Working to increase access to mental health support for queer and transgender* youth.
3217 Hennepin Ave. S., Ste. 2
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 235-6743
<http://www.reclaim-lgbyouth.org>

LIBRARY

Quatrefoil Library

Your GLBT Library with stacks of DVDs, books, and magazines. Check out our online catalogue.
1220 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-2543
www.qlibrary.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums

Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans.
www.mnhs.org

MUSIC

MPR & The Current

Providing in depth news coverage, classical music, and emerging artists on our three regional services.
480 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 290-1500
www.mpr.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Radio K 770

Radio K is the student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota
330 21st Ave. S.
610 Rarig Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Cantus

"The premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States." - Fanfare Magazine
1221 Nicollet Ave., Ste. 231
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 435-0055
www.cantussings.org

Children's Theatre Company

North America's flagship theatre for young audiences and families, offering year-round live theatre for ages 2-18.
2400 3rd Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts

The Cowles Center is the Twin Cities' flagship for the creation, performance, education, and celebration of dance.
528 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 206-3600
www.thecowlescenter.org

Hennepin Theatre Trust

Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres
Twin Cities' best live entertainment: Broadway shows, music concerts, comedy, dance and more!
Minneapolis, MN
1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

History Theatre

Musicals and plays about the people and events that make up the American experience.
30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 292-4944
www.HistoryTheatre.com

Illusion Theater

Nationally renowned for developing artists and new work while sparking conversation about challenging human issues.
528 Hennepin Ave., 8th Fl.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-4944
www.illusiontheater.org

Jungle Theater

Professional theater producing contemporary and classic works in an intimate setting in the Lynlake neighborhood.
2951 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-7063
www.JungleTheater.com

Minnesota Orchestra

Enriching, inspiring and serving our community as a symphony orchestra internationally recognized for artistic excellence.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-5656
(800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Mixed Blood Theatre

Professional, multiracial company, promotes cultural pluralism through artistic excellence and Radical Hospitality no-cost admission program.
1501 S. 4th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 338-0937
www.mixedblood.com

Northrop - University of Minnesota

An epicenter of discovery and transformation celebrating innovation in the arts, performance, and academics.
84 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 625-6600
northrop.umn.edu

One Voice

Minnesota's LGBT Chorus.
Building community and creating social change by lifting our voices in song.
732 Holly Ave., Ste. Q
St. Paul, MN
(651) 298-1954
www.onevoicemn.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

Phoenix Theater

Comedy, Tragedy, and the stuff in between. Offers theater, music, late night events, and more.
2605 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 377-2285
www.phoenixtheatrempls.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

An award-winning chorus that builds community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

POLITICS & RIGHTS

Human Rights Campaign

Advocates for all GLBT Americans, mobilizes grassroots action, invests strategically to elect fair-minded individuals.
P.O. Box 50608
Minneapolis, MN
www.twincities.hrc.org
www.hrc.org

OutFront Minnesota

Delivering programs/services in the area of public policy, anti-violence, education, training and law.
310 E. 38th St., Ste. 204
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-0127
www.outfront.org

PRIDE

Twin Cities Pride

The third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, and board members. Contact us today.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 460
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 255-3260
www.tcpride.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church

A radically inclusive community committed to being All God's Children FOR all God's children!
3100 Park Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 824-2673
www.agcmcc.org

Central Lutheran Church

We welcome all people to discover, celebrate and share the love of Christ.
333 Twelfth St. S.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-4416
www.centralmpls.org

Edina Community Lutheran Church

Upbeat, growing congregation committed to inclusion, justice, peace, community and proclaiming God's YES to all.
4113 W. 54th St.
Edina, MN
(952) 926-3808
www.eclc.org

First Christian Church - Disciples of Christ

A Movement for Wholeness In A Fragmented World.
610 W. 28th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-1868
www.fccminneapolis.org

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

It's a new day at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Hospitality. Beloved Community.
511 Groveland Ave.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

New Life Presbyterian Church

Inclusive Christian faith community daring to live in Jesus' transforming love. Come and see.
965 Larpenteur Ave. W.
Roseville, MN 55113
(651) 488-5581
www.newlifechurchroseville.org

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

A Covenant Network Congregation welcoming all people.
797 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 227-6311
www.hohchurch.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming.
Find us on Facebook and Twitter
1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

Wherever you are on your faith journey...
St. Mark's Welcomes You.
519 Oak Grove St. Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Wingspan Ministry, Pastoral Care for the GLBT community, Education, Music, Witness and Advocacy
100 N. Oxford St.
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 224-3371
www.stpaulref.org

The Episcopal Church of Gethsemane

Historic Building, Progressive Faith
905 4th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 332-5407
amindtowork.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches

Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

SPORTS & RECREATION

Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)

Join 500 GLBT softball players as we celebrate 36 years of gay softball in Minnesota.
P.O. Box 580264
Minneapolis, MN
www.tcgsl.org

TRAVEL

Discover Stillwater

Voted best weekend getaway!
Birthplace of Minnesota. Distinctive lodging. Shop / Dine / Cruise / Art Galleries / Nightlife.
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 351-1717
http://www.DiscoverStillwater.com

Explore Minnesota

Celebrating the unique experiences, great places & rich culture that can only be found in Minnesota.
121 7th Place E
Metro Square, Ste. 100
St. Paul, MN 55101
(888) TOURISM
www.exploreminnesota.com

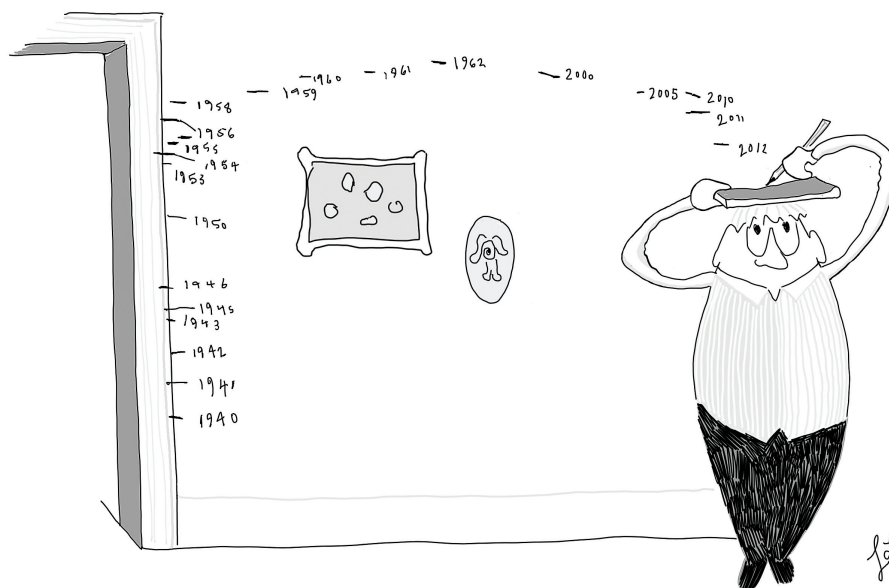
Visit Duluth

Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events.
21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100
Duluth, MN
(218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH
www.visitduluth.com

ZOOS

Minnesota Zoo

Open year-round. More than 2,400 animals to explore.
Numerous special events.
13000 Zoo Blvd.
Apple Valley MN
(952) 431-9200
www.mnzoo.org



Nostalgia: A Demonic Possession

People write down things they want to remember. Buy milk. Clean garage. Find a man. Have kids. Pay Comcast, and f*ck Comcast. Doctor's appointment on Thursday.

Some people write down more complex things they'd like to remember: their lives; doing so ensures the availability of everlasting reflection. They use diaries to capture life's ups and downs — journals that will one day serve as amusing time capsules soliciting chuckles and feelings akin to what alien aunts and uncles say at family reunions: "My, my Marge, look at you! You sure have grown! Now that you've reread this journal, you've proven to yourself that you've matured since your twenties, so why don't you wrap your hands around a warm coffee mug and listen to NPR."

I do not like memories. To me memories are burdens, ghosts that never go away, that make one jealous of how things used to be. And yet for the past four-and-a-half-ish years I've built this column around almost nothing but memories — memories that I think are entertaining enough for you to care to read. I pick things from my past (and, for an eggshell stint last year, from some of your pasts) that contain some nuggets of resonance.

I do not write about memories to remember them, however. I am not a memoirist. I am a forget-me-ist. I write down things to get them out and to keep them out, to put them on paper

and wish them farewell.

Even "good" memories are a struggle; indeed, they are *the* struggle. I don't like good memories. I very much enjoy *making* good memories, but I hate keeping them. They contain the wicked capacity to pull at our heartstrings, to remind us about how wonderful things *were*, only then to gently remind us that we'll never again experience those feelings firsthand. Happy today or not, our hearts are greedy, insatiable things that aren't content with only today's happiness, but yesterday's and tomorrow's as well. The feelings our emotional engravings evoke have a name: "Nostalgia," a moniker worthy of a demon.

For this reason, I keep almost nothing of sentimental value. My apartment looks like an untouched hotel suite: there is no trace of me there; the place is a steel and glass bubble devoid of sentimentality. I do keep a shoebox of memories — a random selection of two-dollar bills my grandfather gave me, the last Christmas card my grandmother ever sent, a few old pictures, a handful of trinkets. And I have my journals, which I open when collecting or referencing gray memories for this column, good and bad. But otherwise I keep nothing on purpose. I am a memory purger who can't help but to remember.

So I did some research. I polled friends, acquaintances, and friendly faced bar strangers to determine how prevalent is my distaste for

happy memories. I talked to 20 or more people and not a single person even understood my preference for bad memories over good ones: it seems that people actually enjoy happy things. As do I, only restricted to the present. My rationale to them was the same as it is to you: bad memories enhance gratitude for the present day: "Thank god I'm not in *THAT* situation anymore." Good memories emphasize yesterday's blessings. The good ones tease and, in my case, don't return.

I am not positing an argument with this letter. My way of thinking is silly and strange, maybe ungrateful even, I admit, and I quite envy you for your ability to fondly look back.

Am I jealous of who I used to be? No. I don't want to be *him* again. I don't even want to meet the guy. But then, what would life be without him, all of him, the good and the bad? There wouldn't be one. There wouldn't exist a "me" to waste your time every two weeks with this column. So I kind of owe the happy guy everything.

For those of you — okay, the one of you — who feels the way I do: what gives, man? We're both experts at dealing with bad memories. It's the good ones that are tough, yeah? We clearly have unresolved issues. We shouldn't *want* to forget what made (and makes) life great. We need a way to deal with these issues. Some kind of therapy.

I've heard writing helps. ■



Twin Cities Pride Presents

An Evening of Classic **LILY TOMLIN**

June 25, 8:00PM | Orchestra Hall

Tickets On Sale March 31 at tcpride.org



Sponsored By:



LAVENDER



Presented by

LAVENDER

RetelOne
VODKA

Ameriprise
Financial

11th Annual **SUMMER of PRIDE** *KICKOFF PARTY*

Thursday, June 4 • 5:30 – 8:00pm
Marin Courtyard

(entire first floor of Marin if raining)

901 Hennepin Ave. - Valet parking available

Come see the spectacular Pride Yarn Bomb display in the courtyard.

COST: FREE • DRESS CODE: COME AS YOU ARE!

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres • Cash Bar • Complimentary Wine Sampling of Barefoot Wines

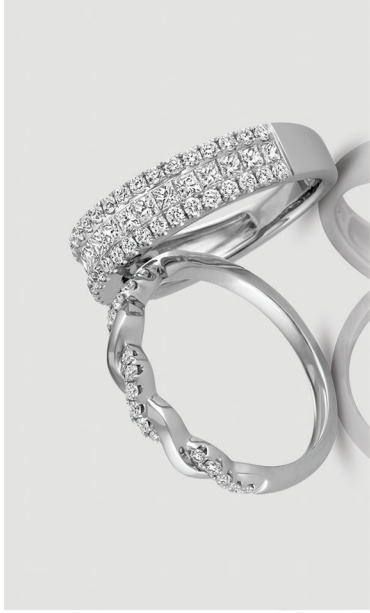
Register to WIN Great Prizes, and visit the Brand G Vacations table and register to win a cabin for two on their December Costa Rica, Cartagena and Panama Canal Cruise or one of their other fabulous prizes!



Brand g

Visit booths from HRC Twin Cities, TCGMC, Twin Cities Pride, Twin Cities Quorum, Aliveness Project, One Voice, Reclaim! and other local non-profit events to find out the great events going on this Pride and over the summer.

LavenderMagazine.com/summerofpride



SOMETIMES PEOPLE NEED TO LOOK AT THINGS WITH A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

A shift in one's viewpoint creates possibilities. When it comes to your rings, Shane Co. has hundreds of unique possibilities and the best selection in the state. With our Free Lifetime Warranty, your purchase is risk-free.

Your friend in the diamond business.®

ShaneCo.com

Minnetonka • Woodbury



Shane Co.®